



CHESS TIME: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein and the president of the Jordanian Chess Federation, Tuesday hosts a lunch in honour of participants in the Arab Chess Tournament which concluded earlier in Irbid. Fourteen

Arab countries participated in the championship. The lunch was attended by Youth Minister Fawwaz Abul Ghanam and Yarmouk University President Marwan Kamal (Petra photo)

Gaza clash 'weakened' Islamic moderates

GAZA (R) — The recent inter-Palestinian fighting in Gaza has weakened Islamic moderates who had been drawing popular support away from militants opposed to dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Palestinian officials said on Monday.

"The militants won this round of the game, but it won't last," said Ahmad Nasser, an official in PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction.

Islamists said the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements made up of independent political and military wings, included officials who had pushed for moderation and pragmatism in dealings with Mr. Arafat.

The Islamists said voices of moderation had been winning some grassroots support after Israel's transfer of Gaza

and the West bank enclave of Jericho to Palestinian self-rule last May.

But the deaths of 16 people in clashes on Friday between Palestinian police and protesters, mainly Hamas supporters, weakened moderates and re-ignited militancy within the groups, the Islamists said.

Sayed Abu Musameh, a leading Hamas figure in Gaza, said: "Now is not the time to talk about a dialogue with Arafat's Palestinian self-rule authority."

"No doubt behaviour on Friday increased tensions among the youths in the Islamic movement, and among people," he said, but added: "The movement's policy is not to reach a civil war."

Leaders of the Islamic opposition, headed by Hamas, denied reports they

had agreed to enter a 20-strong fact-finding mission the Palestinian Authority is setting up to investigate the clashes.

"What we fear is that things will get out of hand. Until now we have no agreement and we are not responsible if something happens," said Imad Al Falluji, a Hamas leader.

"It is difficult to ask people to put behind suffering of 27 years of (Israeli) occupation," said Ala Al Saffawi, a leading figure in the Islamic Jihad.

"When the authority arrived, they were prepared to forget — they hoped things would change. But people reacted to the authority on Friday as they did with occupation armies," Mr. Saffawi said.

PLO official Tayeb Abdul

Mystery students upset Afghan political balance

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A hitherto unknown group of "religious students" is upsetting the traditional balance of power in southern Afghanistan and is fast garnering support among the war-weary population of the area.

The Talibs, who appear to look to Pakistan for political inspiration, took control of the former royal capital of Kandahar after ousting the long-standing commanders there.

The group then began advancing towards Helmand, a thriving opium production area, and to Zabul province further to the north, according to several Afghan and diplomatic sources.

The Afghan people, tired of factional fighting between local commanders, has welcomed the new group which nobody had heard of just one month ago.

Diplomatic sources say the Talibs number about 2,000 and are ideologically motivated, well armed and

funded, and with a declared goal of rescuing the region from the anarchy which followed the collapse of the communist government in 1992.

The group has launched a programme to spread Islam to regions under their control, a move which could potentially lead them into direct conflict with Akhundzadah Ghafar, a major drug baron who rules Helmand.

Diplomats and analysts say there is little doubt that the students have Pakistan's backing, despite the fact that Islamabad maintains it has no intention of becoming involved in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Pakistan has repeatedly declared itself neutral in the bloody civil war raging between rival Afghan factions, which has claimed more than 7,000 lives in the capital Kabul since the start of the year.

Many of the Talibs, whose brand-new Kalashnikov

assault rifles are the envy of the tattered mujahadeen fighters, have studied at special Koranic schools in Pakistan, the diplomats and analysts said.

Some of the Talibs may come from the Pashtun ethnic minority in Pakistan, and cannot be told apart from the Afghan Pashtuns, the sources claim.

Rumours of Pakistani influence in the area have become so persistent that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad strongly denied any Pakistani military involvement in the clashes which led to the Talibs taking Kandahar.

Whatever the truth, one certainty is that the Talibs and Pakistanis both have the same vested interests in seeing peace come to southern Afghanistan.

Without stability in the region, Islamabad's declared goal of opening up a trading route to central Asia via Kandahar and Herat, cannot be

Islamists sue director of Egyptian film about Joseph

The Guardian

A FILM based on the biblical figure Joseph is the latest focus of the battle between secular intellectuals and conservative Muslims in Egypt.

Egypt's highest Islamic institution, Al Azhar, has declared that the film, Al Muhajer (The Emigrant), must be withdrawn from cinemas because of its "anti-Islamic" depiction of the prophet Joseph, or Yusuf.

The director of the film Yusuf Shahine, is being sued

by a lawyer, Mahmoud Abou al-Faid, who argues that the film defames Egypt because it gives the impression of Jewish supremacy over the country.

"The film is Zionist," said Mr. al-Faid, "and Yusuf Shahine is a Zionist."

Mr. Shahine expresses surprise at the criticism. "I am against Israel. They ask me to visit there but I never go. How can there be peace while they dominate us with their nuclear weapons?" he said.

The film, which is drawing

huge crowds, is seen as another opportunity for conservative Muslims to attack secular opponents through the courts.

In August, a group of lawyers, led by Yusuf al-Badri, sued several Cairo cinemas for displaying film posters featuring scantily-clad women.

Opposition newspapers, headed by the Islamist Al Shaab, have called on the courts to rule against the film, whose story bears more than a passing resemblance to that of Joseph, which is told

Rich Iranian charity may come under probe

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian parliament is gathering evidence for a possible investigation into the operations of a rich foundation, which has been acting more as an investment empire than a charity for the poor. Tehran press reports said.

The Islamic Republic News Agency quoted the daily newspaper Salaam as saying parliament was still compiling complaints of mismanagement and corruption made against the Bonyad Mostazafan Va Janbazan.

The charity, whose name in Farsi means foundation for the disabled and the deprived, is charged with caring for the poor and war veterans disabled in the 1980-88 conflict with Iraq.

Bonyad Mostazafan has been blamed for causing many of the distortions in Iran's faltering economy.

Answerable to no one but Iran's spiritual leader, it has for more than a decade operated with impunity.

It has been allowed to keep money-losing enterprises running, passing losses on to the government, which had to foot huge subsidy bills for raw materials imported from abroad.

In the past, it also made a killing by buying subsidised hard currency, importing goods, and selling them at inflated prices. It pocketed the profits, and the government was left with the subsidy bills.

But in the bleak economic climate now descending on the country, Bonyad Mostazafan's activities may be coming under closer scrutiny amid government fears that worsening conditions could unleash social unrest.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani has announced a war on inflation, unofficially estimated to be running at 60 per cent, and has threatened profiteers with heavy fines and jail sentences.

After the 1979 Islamic revolution, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had the wealth of the deposed monarchy and its cronies confiscated and given to the Bonyad Mostazafan. But the organisation has since been enriching itself further by continuing to confiscate private properties and assets on various pretexts.

In the courts, no one dared stand up to the foundation, whose possessions include everything from the old Coca-Cola bottling plant to a string of luxury hotels and even property on New York's Fifth Avenue.

Its managing director, Moshen Rafiqdoust, is a high-school graduate who rose to prominence as Ayatollah Khomeini's driver. He now controls a \$4 billion empire which owns some 1,200 companies, and is brother-in-law of President Ali Akbar Rafsanjani.

Before being appointed head of Bonyad Mostazafan in 1989, Mr. Rafiqdoust was minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. He was accused of corruption and embezzlement after the disappearance of tens of millions of dollars meant for arms purchases during the war with Iraq.



An Egyptian lady wearing an 'Islamic bathing suit' comes out of the water as a tourist gets ready to dive into the Red Sea in Sharm Al (AFP photo)

Warning labels on mini-skirts in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Some Egyptian shops have begun selling clothing and jewellery with warnings to ensure customers wear them without offending Islamic traditions of modesty.

"These clothes are only to be worn at home and should in no case be worn to go out in," declared a label attached to mini-skirts and other clothes made in stretch fabrics on sale in a Cairo shop.

The garments were sold in unmarked plastic coverings to conceal the identity of the manufacturer and the trader said he had bought them from a sales-rep.

It is a sign of the increasing influence of Islam on the daily life of Egyptians, already demonstrated by the growing number of women and girls wearing the veil.

"This 'advice' has a stronger impact than an open warning from a sheikh or other religious leader," Egyptian sociologist Samiha Hassan told AFP.

"Since the author's identity is not known, it creates an atmosphere of fear as you don't know where the punishment will come from. Whether it will be in the corner of a dark alley where a bearded man is hiding, or whether it will be divine punishment," she added.

Sportswomen rarely wear shorts during competitions, preferring instead to cover up their legs.

Egyptian basketball champion Medhat Warda defied competition rules to wear

shorts which covered knees during an international match in Cairo at the 1990.

He triumphantly displayed a copy of the Koran, when Egypt won championship. "If I lost, it would have been a slap in the face to me," commented the author Foda.

Foda, an outspoken of the growing influence of Islam on daily life, pronounced as a blasphemy murdered by members of outlawed Al Gamaa al Islamiya in June 1992.

Earlier this month a woman refused to show her hand of President Mubarak when he inspected the chaos caused by floods in southern Egypt, saying she would not let the hand of any man see her husband.

On Friday during a question and answer session with a sheikh, one wanted to know if it was indecent to sit down in a chair still warm from a previous male occupant.

Muslim militants led by Gamaa have been in since March 1992. Mr. Mubarak's government in a campaign which far cost 500 lives.

Islamic leader spurs Kurds to hate West

VAN, Turkey (R) — Turkish Islamic party leader Necmettin Erbakan, whose Refah Party leads the government in opinion polls, told Kurdish audiences Monday he would "save the world from European infidels" once in power.

The charismatic leader of the right-wing Refah or Islamic Prosperity Party has been visiting Kurdish regions in east and south-east Turkey since Nov. 18, as part of a campaign for parliamentary by-elections that were to have been held next month.

The supreme court last week forced a postponement amid opposition complaints of gerrymandering.

Billed as "the hope of all Muslims" and the leader the world is waiting for," Mr. Erbakan told Kurds to defend their land from imperialists.

Sixty-eight-year-old Erbakan hailed the thousands of Kurds present as "descendants of Saladin," the Kurdish sultan who expelled

Christian crusaders.

He told them to overthrow the "system of slavery imposed by the imitators of the West, the enemy of Islam" and to free Jerusalem, Bosnia and Azerbaijan, in marked contrast to the conciliatory and reassuring tone he adopted on a visit to the United States in October.

Mr. Erbakan said the "Western political system in Turkey was in a state of collapse, and criticised its evasive membership of the European Union (EU) as a divorce from the Islamic World and integration in to that of the "infidels."

Criticising Turkey's siphoning of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which affects Syria and Iraq, Mr. Erbakan said "Prime Minister Tansu Ciller is depriving our Muslim neighbours of water and giving it to Israel at America's request."

Mr. Erbakan's tour was planned before the postponement of Dec. 3 by-elections in 22 parliamentary seats of which 11 are Kurdish.

In March's municipal elections Refah took 23 out of 100 town councils, among them Istanbul and Ankara, including 12 of the 18 Kurdish strongholds.

With 20 per cent of vote, it came in margin behind the two other leading right-wing parties, opposition Motherland Party and Ms. Ciller's True Path Party, which leads the right-left coalition.

According to recent published in the press, Refah is the most popular party in Turkey, with 22.8 per cent ahead of the Motherland Party with 15.9 per cent and True Path Party with 14.3 per cent.

Speaking in Ankara, Turkish President Suleyman Demirel said Monday "widening Europe is avoidable and we think include Turkey too."

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 723111-14

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 ... Les Treize Du Monde
17:30 ... News in French
18:45 ... E-Min
19:30 ... Coach
20:30 ... Quantum Leap
21:10 ... Snowy River
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Football
23:10 ... Coming of Age

PRAYER TIMES
04:45 ... Fajr
06:05 ... (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:42 ... Dhuhur
14:14 ... 'Asr
16:38 ... Maghrib
17:59 ... Isha

CHURCHES
Mary of Nazareth Church
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 72785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 824590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 7440
St. Salla Church Tel. 661757
Assistance Church Tel. 622300
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 638551, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654922
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will drop significantly with rainfall expected in all parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be partly cloudy and winds south-westerly moderate in active. In Amman, also will be partly cloudy to cloudy with a chance of showers. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough.
Min/Max temp.
Amman ... 7/11
Aqaba ... 13/20
Dead Sea ... 6/14
Jordan Valley ... 12/18

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 15 Aqaba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour ... 780197
Dr. Farouq Noor ... 786680
Dr. Raith Zaidoun ... 886685
Dr. Jihad Zyadch ... 881148
Firas pharmacy ... 661912
Ferdous pharmacy ... 776336
Al Asma pharmacy ... 639635
Naimukh pharmacy ... 626762
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945
Shimchani pharmacy ... 637660
Naimukh pharmacy ... 626762
Najib pharmacy ... 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Omari ... 272132
Al Ouda pharmacy ... (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yehya Tarif ... 981520
Khulidh pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 611111
Civil Defence Immediate ... 630341
Rescue ... 192, 621111, 657777
Fire Brigade ... 617101
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 343402
Traffic Police ... 896390
Public Security Department ... 630321
Hotel Complaints ... 610580
Price Complaints ... 661179
Water and Sewerage ... 897467
Complaints ... 787111
Complaints ... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 010230
Central Amman Telephone ... 623101
Raphans ... 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair ... 621101
Jordan Television ... 723111
Radio Jordan ... 774111
Water Authority ... 661141
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615
Electric Power Company ... 636381
RJ Flight Information ... 88-3328
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 88-3328

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81-81342
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akish Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 641714
Shmiesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845645
Al-Muasher Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751112h
Army, Marks 89161015
Queen Alia Hospital 62234958
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)983641
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)999999
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al-Hana Hospital (02)277104
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:45 ... Amman (RJ)
08:35 ... Jeddah (RJ)
08:55 ... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:05 ... Larnaca (RJ)
15:00 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
16:15 ... Madrid (RJ)
16:35 ... London (RJ)
16:45 ... Istanbul (RJ)
17:55 ... Brussels, Vienna (RJ)
18:10 ... Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)
18:10 ... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:35 ... Rome (RJ)
23:40 ... Beirut (RJ)
06:20 ... Cairo (RJ)
01:00 ... Paris (add) (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:35 ... Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 ... Amman (RJ)
10:00 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:35 ... Berlin, London (RJ)
10:50 ... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:05 ... Damascus (AZ)
14:20 ... Amman (RJ)
14:35 ... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
20:20 ... Beirut (ME)
23:05 ... Athens (AG)
23:20 ... Amsterdam (KL)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:45 ... Beirut (ME)
10:30 ... Cairo (MS)
11:15 ... Larnaca (CY)
11:30 ... Amman (RJ)
11:30 ... Amman (RJ)
11:45 ... Jeddah (SV)
13:30 ... Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:20 ... Sharjah (AH)

MARKET PRICES
Upper lower price in this per 100
Apple ... 100
Banana ... 100
Banana (Mukammal) ... 100
Cauliflower ... 100
Cauliflower (large) ... 100
Cauliflower (small) ... 100
Cucumber ... 100
Cucumber (large) ... 100
Cucumber (small) ... 100
Garlic ... 100
Grape Fruit ... 100
Lemon ... 100
Mint (large) ... 100
Mint (small) ... 100
Olive (green) ... 100
Onion (green) ... 100
Onion (dry) ... 100
Pepper (red) ... 100
Pepper (white) ... 100
Spinach ... 100
Tomato ... 100



BIDDING FAREWELL: Minister of Information Jawad Anani bids farewell to Qatari Minister of Information and Culture Hamad Kuwari Tuesday as he and his accompanying delegation concluded a several-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit Dr. Kuwari was received by His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with government officials. The talks culminated in the signing of new protocols to advance Jordanian-Qatari cooperation in

informational and cultural fields and update a 1981 cultural agreement which provides for cooperation in radio, television, exchange of news and programmes as well as publications, and cooperation between the national news agencies of the two countries. Dr. Kuwari and his delegation were seen off at Marka Airport by Dr. Anani and senior officials (Petra photo).

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, congratulating him on his country's independence day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Lebanese people further progress and prosperity.

OIC chief sends cable to Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday received a cable from Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamed Al Ghabed, praising Jordan's efforts to serve Arab and Islamic causes, including the Palestine question, the holy city of Jerusalem, enhancing Islamic solidarity and providing support to the OIC. Mr. Ghabed thanked Dr. Majali for the hospitality accorded to him during the round table conference on the human dimensions of the Middle East peace process, which was held here on Nov. 12, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and organised by the Institute of Democracy.

Trade minister heads for Brussels talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Tuesday left for Brussels to join a Jordanian economic delegation headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The delegation will hold economic talks with Belgian officials on means of enhancing economic cooperation between both countries.

Qatari sports official to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Qatari Youth and Sports Corporation Sheikh Mohammad Ben Eid Al Thani Saturday arrives here at the head of a Qatari delegation on a four-day official visit to Jordan. Sheikh Al Thani will hold talks with Youth Minister

Fawwaz Abu Ghanam and other officials on means of enhancing bilateral relations in the sports and youth fields.

NAF helps 30,023 families since 1986

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has granted JD 6,293,129 in cash assistance to 30,023 families since its establishment in 1986, according to Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Suleiman Roussan. The fund was established upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to help poor families through cash assistance and rehabilitation projects aimed at generating income for the poor, with a view to ensuring self-reliance.

Workshop on refugee protection starts

AQABA (Petra) — A two-day workshop on protection of refugees and the United Nations role in ensuring their protection started here Tuesday. The workshop, organised by the High Commissioner for Refugees, seeks to promote awareness on ways of protecting refugees, the refugees' rights and possibility of their integration in the host countries. Taking part in the workshop are 25 people from the ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, Amnesty International, Jordan Red Crescent Society and representatives of the local media.

Business delegation to travel to Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian business delegation, headed by Jordanian Businessmen's Association President Hamdi Tabbaa Saturday leaves for Baghdad on a four-day visit to Iraq for talks on promoting economic and trade cooperation. The delegation will meet with Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammad Mahdi Saleh, Secretary General of the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce Faleh Ali Saleh and representatives of Iraqi industrial and commercial companies.

Police inspect vehicle in preparation for winter

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Traffic Department is now three days into its annual campaign to check vehicles in preparation for winter, targeting more than 350,000 motor vehicles in the Kingdom in an effort to minimise road accidents, particularly when weather conditions can create dangerous situations.

Traffic officials are checking whether vehicle tyres are in good condition, windshield wipers are functioning properly and wind-shield water containers are filled; breaks are working, signal and licence plate lights are functioning; plate numbers are clear and legal; and whether the back cover of pickup trucks are securely fastened.

According to recent numbers provided by the Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (SPRA), last year's 24,799 road accidents claimed the lives of 440 persons and left 11,745 injured.

Furthermore, the numbers revealed that in the past five years, 1,950 people were killed in road accidents.

Annually, more than 400 people are killed on Jordan's roads, PSD numbers showed.

A Public Security Department (PSD) official said that no fines will be

issued to violators. Instead, he said police units will seize vehicle licences of violators for one week, and "if the car owner does not fix the malfunction within a week, then we will issue him/her a fine."

"Our aim in this annual campaign is to insure the safety of all vehicles, not to penalise motorists," the PSD official told the Jordan Times.

Moreover, the official said, motor vehicles that pass the inspection will be issued an orange sticker to be affixed to the windshield so that it is not pulled over again by other inspection units.

He was quick to point out that officials will continue to look for other violations as well, including failure to wear seat belts, fuel emissions from vehicles causing pollution, wrongful overtaking, speeding, and not carrying a valid drivers licence, and other standard violations.

The PSD official said the first three days of inspection revealed that "most vehicles were well maintained."

He added that very few licences were seized, but would not release any figures.

Meanwhile, PSD reports indicated that 91 road accidents occurred Monday, leaving 22 citizens in critical condition.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

★ Film entitled "Yes, Prime Minister" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

★ Poetry recital by Mohammad Al Ameri at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Ceramics exhibition by Maher Samarra at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Najwa Annab at the Orfali Art Gallery.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Sa'id Al 'Ani at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art. Also showing a paintings exhibition by Husni Abu Karim.

★ Exhibition on human international law entitled "Drawings from Arab Calligraphy" at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing an exhibition of wooden products by Atallah Zahneh.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Daniel Argimon at the Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).

★ Exhibit entitled "Signs and Symbols: Communication and Interpretation from the Brandywine Workshop" at the American Center.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Funun.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

★ Exhibition of art by Annie Saklabb at the French Cultural Centre.

Jordan, Israel plan strategy

(Continued from page 1)

schemes in the valley, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mumtaz Haddadin, who heads the Jordanian side to the steering committee, said in a statement after the first session that the committee approved of the manner in which Jordan and Israel would approach the European Union (EU) at a meeting to be held soon with EU officials to request financing of joint Jordanian-Israeli schemes in the Jordan Valley.

The two sides also agreed on terms of reference for the plenary committee and on preparing for terms of reference for the committee's work on the development of the Gulf of Aqaba for tourist purposes and for allowing other parties like Egypt to be involved in the development of the Aqaba coast for tourism purposes, according to

Dr. Haddadin.

Mr. Odin Afran from the Israeli foreign ministry, who heads the Israeli side, said that the Jordan Valley region would witness major development through projects in which the private sector would have a key role.

Mr. Afran said that the two sides set up sub-committees to deal with technical and financial matters related to the proposed schemes in the Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile the Jordanian-Israeli transport committee met Tuesday at Aqaba's Coral Beach Hotel and discussed cooperation in aviation and the air corridor between the two countries.

The committee, meeting under the co-chairmanship of Director General of the Ports Corporation Dureid Mahasneh and the Israeli deputy transport minister, also dwelt on marine transport and tourism. The committee will resume its meeting Wednesday.

Clinton ready

(Continued from page 12)

fore, of the U.S. commitment."

The two leaders agreed that "greater attention" should be paid to the problem of "terrorism" funded by Iran. The official said there was a discussion of Mr. Clinton's reaffirmation of the \$3,000 million in U.S. assistance to Israel and of the Arrow missile, which is presently in the research and development stage. The official sidestepped efforts to pin down the cost of U.S. participation in the jointly funded project, which he said is aimed at providing Israel protection against ballistic missiles.

Muasher

(Continued from page 1)

among U.S. officials and particularly the Congress. Due to the success of the JIB experiment in Washington, a similar office was later established in London.

Dr. Muasher, who started his government career as cabinet spokesman in 1989, during the Kingdom's first free parliamentary elections, settled back in Jordan earlier this year with plans to begin preparations to run as a candidate in the next parliamentary elections in 1997.

His appointment to the embassy in Tel Aviv came as a surprise to many who were aware of his intention to become active on the local political front.

'Investment window' to open to facilitate red tape — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade Investment Encouragement Department will open what it called "an investment window" on Dec. 1 to facilitate procedures for investors in the Kingdom.

Department Director Assem Hindawi, who made the announcement Tuesday, said that officials at the new section would handle all the required formalities and procedures at the various government departments on behalf of the investors and to save them the trouble of conducting the business themselves.

The investment window, said Mr. Hindawi, would mean that investors would be dealing with only government department, and the service is to be free of charge.

Mr. Hindawi also announced that the department would soon publish, in Arabic, French and English, the requirements and conditions requested by the department from investors in different economic projects.

The department will cooperate with the private economic consultancy services in conducting a survey

of all the potential areas for the investment in the Kingdom which would then be made available to investors.

Investments in Jordan between July and September comprised 26 projects involving a total capital of nearly JD 33 million and which created 2,075 new jobs, Mr. Hindawi said.

He said all the investors were either Jordanians or Jordanians in partnership with Arab and foreign country nationals, adding that these projects included no Israeli investors.

Business reply services to be made available — ministry

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Post and Communications has announced that as of Jan. 1, 1995, International Business Reply Services (IBRS) will be available in Jordan to all businesses as well as businesses abroad soliciting the Jordanian market.

The service works in the same manner as domestic business reply mail in the U.S. and Europe where companies, advertisers and marketers enclose a prepared reply item to consumers or other businesses as an incentive to respond to mail inquiries.

Although the service has been available in 42 countries worldwide since 1990, Jordan is only recently joining the ranks. The reason the ministry has decided to adopt the IBRS is two-fold, said Mohammad Kahwaji, the new director of postal affairs. Until business reply mail service was available interna-

tionally, it was only possible to offer two types of prepayment postage: by enclosing an international reply coupon or by enclosing an envelope or card pre-stamped. This was generally considered inefficient because reply coupons have to be exchanged for stamps and because the sender incurs the cost of each piece of reply mail whether it is returned or not — an expensive endeavour for businesses intending to make a large mailing, considering that usually only 5 to 10 per cent of reply items are ever returned to the sender.

"This service is needed in Jordan," he said. "There are new international and local businesses that could use a service like this for surveys, sending samples and marketing. It also works the other way — companies in the West and in the region would like to send things to Jordan with prepaid reply cards or envelopes."

Currently, seven countries have agreed to exchange this service with Jordan: the U.S., England, France, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Holland, Denmark and Australia.

An additional 20 countries have accepted to return reply mail originating in Jordan.

Subscribers to the service in here are subject to an annual JD10 plus the cost of postage for local service and JD25 plus the cost of postage of the country returning the mail for service abroad.

Businesses also assume the expense of printing reply cards and envelopes to the specifications of the ministry.

According to Mr. Kahwaji, the ministry has thus far only received one application from a local magazine for the service. But, he expects the number of subscribers to increase following a media campaign to introduce the service to local businesses.

Polish economists see economic potential for more bilateral trade

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the early 1980's the balance of trade between Jordan and Poland tipped in favour of Jordan. Although in recent years bilateral trade has declined and reversed, now favouring Polish exports to Jordan, the Poles see potential for mutual benefit.

"Current trade relations between Jordan and Poland are insufficient and do not display their full potential," said Chancellor of the Commercial Chancellery's Office at the Polish Embassy Kazimierz Maurer.

"Poland and Jordan are at the same stage of change," said Mr. Maurer, who explained that Poland is still within the transition period from communism to capitalism and that, in parallel, Jordan is adopting policies for a more open economy as well as progressive normalisation of relations with Israel.

"I expect a more open economy here, considering Crown Prince Hassan's announcement in Casablanca (during the economic conference held Oct. 30 to Nov. 1)

to open the Kingdom to increased imports and exports and also the government's decision to decrease import tax. In consequence we (Polish economists) are preparing new ways and ideas to further bilateral commercial relations," Mr. Maurer said.

Accordingly, a small exhibition of 25 Polish companies will be held on Nov. 28.

Among products exhibited will be cars, trucks, sweets and chocolates. The exhibition will also play host to a handful of business and official meetings, Mr. Maurer told the Jordan Times.

"With the anticipated increased flow of tourists from and through Israel, Jordan should witness development in the business sector, and so we (at the Polish embassy) have encouraged Polish firms to attend the exhibition to see for themselves the opportunities available here. We hope that some of them will bid for tenders of new projects," he added.

A delegation from Polymex-Cekop, the Polish firm that built the Jordanian Glass Industries Company in Ma'an, now intends to estab-

lish a joint venture with the glass company, Mr. Maurer said.

Recent figures indicate that present Jordanian-Polish trade exchange is almost negligible: per annum Polish exports to Jordan amount to about \$10 million, while Jordanian exports to Poland are around \$1 million, Mr. Maurer said.

"Until a few years ago Poland imported a lot of Jordanian potash, but ceased because of Poland's financial troubles. However, five years of free economy has made Poland into one of the fastest developing countries in Europe."

Although prosperity starts with construction, development of agriculture, for which we need potash, is also important," he said. In a couple of years he expects Polish imports of potash to reach new heights.

"The aim of the exhibition is to bring Jordan and Poland closer together — to attract Polish investment and to encourage trade in both directions," said Mr. Maurer.

The one-day public exhibition will be held on Nov. 28 at Amra hotel.

Arafat seeks to regain lead

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Jabali did not say how he would use the Hawks, who used to fight Israeli soldiers, but were pushed to the sidelines when self-rule began in May and Palestinian police took over.

Hisham Abdul Razeq, a leading Fateh official, said Fateh would no longer leave the street to Hamas. If Hamas demonstrators rallied against Mr. Arafat, Fateh supporters would be sent out for a counter demonstration, Mr. Abdul Razeq said.

"We told Abu Ammar (Arafat) that Fateh can have a role in protecting the Palestinian Authority," Mr. Abdul Razeq said. "We will not allow anybody to kill this newborn Palestinian state."

Israeli Radio said seven groups of Hawks had been formed in the Gaza Strip as strike forces against Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The Palestinian Authority also tried some conciliatory measures. Police released 25 Islamic Jihad activists, leaving 70 of the scores arrested still in jail. And in a speech for Palestinian television, Mr. Arafat said Palestinians should not mourn recent events but should concentrate on their twin goals of ending the occupation on all Palestinian land and erasing the effects of 27 years of Israeli military rule. He warned that acts against the authority would not be tolerated, however.

Hamas, in turn, accused Mr. Arafat of provoking his opponents in hopes of unleashing a civil war that would destroy the Islamic group.

"There are some people in the Palestinian Authority who are pushing for civil war," said Enad Falouji, a

Hamas leader. He said the opposition groups would not be dragged into a showdown.

However, he said attacks against Israeli targets, both in the PLO-ruled areas and in Israel, would continue. Hamas' smaller sister organisation, Islamic Jihad, killed four Israeli soldiers guarding a Jewish settlement in Gaza in the past two weeks.

Mr. Falouji said pressure by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Mr. Arafat to crack down on the opposition was counterproductive.

"We want to make clear for Mr. Rabin that the more pressure he exerts on Arafat to make him oppress us, the more military operations there will be against his (Rabin's) soldiers in Gaza," Mr. Falouji said.

Norway on Tuesday signed a \$10 million accord with the Palestinian Authority in the first sign of international support since last week's blood-bath in Gaza.

Nabil Shaath, minister of international planning, praised Norway's "generous grant" for the three-year project to help develop his department.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinians were now ready with projects and accountability procedures.

"At the beginning we were not ready because our institutions were not on the ground," he told reporters after signing the Norwegian deal.

"Now, our plans are ready and place is swarming with auditors. I don't think there is a problem of transparency any more."

"I think the problem now is with donors."

Terje Larsen, U.N. coordinator for the occupied terri-

tories, repeated charges he made Monday against international donors.

"If we assess the donor effort today, I would say very simply: It's a failure," said Mr. Larsen, also present at the signing ceremony in Gaza City.

He said donors had initially pledged \$700 million for 1994, but only \$140 million had actually been disbursed, most of which has gone for salaries and running costs.

Arafat seen to raise stakes in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

Fateh on Sunday after his lieutenants failed to get more than 500 people to demonstrate in his support. Fateh activists told the Jordan Times that they have agreed to shore up support for Mr. Arafat provided he accepted their demands for reforms in the Fateh movement.

By falling back on Fateh, however, and placing it in the frontline of the confrontation with Hamas, Mr. Arafat might have jeopardised efforts to reach national reconciliation and marginalised the other secular opposition.

Local leaders say that Mr. Arafat's and Hamas' attitudes are perpetuating the impression that the crisis emanates from a conflict between fundamentalist "extremists" and moderate PNA.

But according to Dr. Abdul Shaif, this analysis is an over simplification that overshadows the major conflict arising from the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian agreements and the continuous Israeli occupation.



STUDENT ART: University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh Tuesday opens a three-day art exhibition by students from Yarmouk University, Jordan.

University of Science and Technology and Muta University marking His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday

'Kindergarten of peace' to open in Wadi Araba, says charity

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based Al Zahraa Charitable Society has decided to open a kindergarten in the Wadi Araba region and name it "The Kindergarten of Peace" in commemoration of the peace treaty which was signed there last month between Jordan and Israel.

Society President Hanan Kurdi said that a team from the society will soon visit the Wadi Araba region to conduct a survey of the social conditions of people and the number of children of preschool age that could be cared for at the kindergarten.

She said that the society, which is governed by a board of trustees chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, cares for less fortunate children under five-years-old.

She said the kindergarten, which will be set up at Wadi Araba as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday will be solely dedicated to serving the needy children of the region.

Mrs. Kurdi said the society will develop the kindergarten into a school at a later stage and will hold training courses for women teachers at the

kindergarten level to be employed at the centre and other centres run by the society.

Referring to other plans, Mrs. Kurdi said that the society recently opened a kindergarten at Al Jadieh Village in the Bani Hamideh district, offering care to 40 children from local needy families.

Mrs. Kurdi said that the society has been working closely with the Ministry of Social Development in providing other services to the children, including mother and child care, in different rural areas of the country.

Nepal's Communist Party wins elections but short of majority

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepal's Communist Party Tuesday won the largest block of seats in parliamentary elections but fell short of a working majority as political uncertainty gripped the Himalayan kingdom.

The Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist Party (UML) took 88 seats in the 205-member parliament, ahead of the outgoing ruling Congress Party with 81, near-complete results showed.

With only two seats undecided from last Tuesday's voting, Congress was unable to catch up despite an 11th-hour comeback.

The UML could count on qualified support from a splinter group of Communists which won four seats, as well as two independents. But it would still lack a working majority.

The UML had not yet found a coalition partner to give it the necessary minimum 103 parliamentary seats to form a government to lead the kingdom, which abandoned absolute monarchy in 1990 in the face of pro-democracy protests.

Communists demonstrated in the capital Kathmandu Tuesday to protest against what the UML called "the blatant and naked irregularities by the government during the election."

UML leaders had warned of potential violence if it was found that the government tampered with the voting.

UML General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal Monday accused Congress of rigging late results in order to cut the Communists' lead and hinder their chances of forming a coalition.

A group of international observers concluded last week that while the election was generally free and fair, there had been "irregularities," mostly committed by Congress.

However, the demonstration got off to a peaceful start and there was no incident during the first hour of protest.

Caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said his Congress Party should step down and urged foreign aid donors to continue providing

Nepal with a crucial financial lifeline even if the Communists formed the next government.

But party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, long at odds with Mr. Koirala, had indicated earlier Monday that Congress might try to form its own coalition.

UML leaders were set to meet Mr. Bhattarai Tuesday to explore coalition possibilities, Mr. Nepal said.

The Communists have concentrated on wooing dissident Congress Party members who precipitated the snap elections when they abandoned Mr. Koirala in a vote of confidence last July.

Mr. Koirala's government has been riven by allegations of corruption, as well as high inflation and charges it failed to improve the standard of living in Nepal, one of the world's 10 poorest nations with annual earnings of about \$180 a head.

The UML general secretary said former Congress leader and elder statesman Ganesh Man Singh, who broke with Mr. Koirala ear-

lier this year and last week accused him of "misrule", could lead as many as 25 Congress rebels into the UML camp.

Congress officials said party leaders would decide at a meeting Wednesday whether to support the UML, withhold backing or try to form its own coalition.

UML called a meeting of parliamentarians for Wednesday to elect a leader who would be their candidate as prime minister.

There is an understanding that party chief Man Mohan Adhikary will become the leader of the parliamentary party, Mr. Nepal said. A moderate, Mr. Adhikary survived 17 years in jail and upheaval in his movement to merge two Communist strands.

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), whose leaders governed Nepal during three decades of partyless rule until 1990, said it would decide on coalition possibilities on Thursday. With 20 seats, the RPP held a potentially strong bargaining hand.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (right), Vietnamese Communist Party Secretary General Do Muoi (left) and Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh (2nd left) toast after witnessing the signing of bilateral agreements Tuesday. Mr. Jiang Tuesday concluded his visit to Vietnam (AFP photo)

Little movement on Spratlys as China and Vietnam turn towards business

HANOI (AFP) — China and Vietnam made little headway in resolving their dispute in the South China Sea after a visit here by Chinese President Jiang Zemin, preferring to set the issue aside in the interest of closer economic ties.

In talks with Vietnamese leaders, Mr. Jiang restated principles to find a peaceful solution to claims on the Spratly and Paracel Islands but offered little in the way of new steps to solve the problem.

A communiqué issued after the three-day visit promised that neither side would resort to force or the threat of force. Both countries also agreed to avoid any issues that might "complicate" the problem.

China agreed to a Vietnamese proposal to set up a third working group that will study territorial issues in the South China Sea but details have yet to be worked out, foreign ministers Qian Qichen and Nguyen Manh Cam said.

Similar committees are already in place to discuss the land border and demarcation of the Gulf of Tonkin, but

they are not believed to have made much progress after two years of talks.

Both sides were confident that the dispute, which has soured relations since ties were normalised in 1991, would be set aside as the countries work for a solution, allowing them to step up their growing business links.

"If there are problems that we can settle, we will do so. Otherwise we will leave them aside so as not to affect other relations," Mr. Cam told a news conference.

Before Mr. Jiang's delegation left for Beijing, Mr. Qian brushed off any prospect of multilateral talks on the islands, which also lie in areas claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and the Philippines. All the countries except Brunei have a military presence in the atolls.

There are some countries and people who are very concerned about this issue and they made predictions every day that Vietnam and China will have a conflict," Mr. Qian said.

But he added: "China and Vietnam are entirely capable of resolving this issue by themselves."

Mr. Cam said that time had

not allowed for any discussion of joint development of oil reserves believed to lie under the area, which is seen as a key step towards a future settlement.

The Vietnamese foreign minister refused to set a target for a solution to the problem of the Paracels, taken over by China in 1974, and the Spratlys, where naval forces from the two countries clashed in 1988.

"I'm not a fortune teller so I can't predict an agreement but the problem will be solved earlier than expected," he said before quickly adding that "such complex issues needed time and persistence."

Mr. Cam hinted that Vietnam's entry into the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), widely seen as a move to counterbalance China's growing military and economic power, would help move the issue forward.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

"It's a positive development that will exert a positive pressure to resolve these problems," he said.

Group: Japan has duty to war sex slaves

GENEVA (R) — Japan has a moral and legal duty to the Asian women used as sex slaves by its soldiers during World War II, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said Tuesday.

The Geneva-based organisation said its report, entitled "Comfort Women," documented how the Japanese Imperial Army forced sex on between 100,000 and 200,000 Asian girls and women.

It is based on an ICJ mission to the Philippines, North Korea, South Korea and Japan in April 1993 by two female jurists who interviewed more than 40 victims, three former soldiers and government representatives.

"The ICJ report finds that the Japanese Imperial Army

was responsible for the setting up of a vast network of 'comfort stations' for the 'enjoyment' of the Japanese army, before and during World War II," it said in a statement.

"Chinese, Dutch, Filipino, Indonesian, Korean, Malaysian, Taiwanese and other women and girls, often as young as 13, were thrown into these 'comfort stations' and 'sexual services' were extracted from them through unimaginable violence and cruelty."

ICJ said its report, due to be made available later in the day or Wednesday, urges Japan to "take immediate steps to provide full rehabilitation and restitution to the victims as it is clear that it bears a moral and legal

obligation towards them."

The ICJ, composed of about 45 eminent jurists, promotes the rule of law and the legal protection of human rights worldwide.

Last August, the United Nations Human Rights Sub-Commission, a Geneva-based body of 26 members, asked two of its special investigators to look into Japan's wartime use of sexual slaves.

A month later Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama announced a \$1 billion fund to be used over the next 10 years for exchange programmes and to build vocational training centres for women as a token of apology for war atrocities.

But the ICJ brushed aside the planned fund as not counting as compensation.

Russian general goes on trial on bribe charges

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian Air Force general went on trial in Moscow Tuesday charged with embezzlement and taking bribes while serving with Russian forces in Germany.

In a lengthy indictment read out to a military court, Nikolai Seliverstov, former first deputy commander of the 16th Air Force based in Germany, was charged with embezzling more than 60,000 marks (\$39,000) and taking bribes totalling 20,000 marks (\$13,000).

Gen. Seliverstov, 49, a dark-haired, bespectacled figure dressed in civilian clothes, said he would plead not guilty.

"I am not guilty. I have been picked as a scapegoat," he told reporters during a break in the hearing at the three-judge, military collegium of the Supreme Court, Russia's highest military court.

A prosecutor told reporters if all the charges were proved Gen. Seliverstov could go to jail for up to 15 years.

The charges relate to alleged incidents in 1992 in Russia's Western Army Group which served in Germany. It has been the focus of corruption allegations in the Russian media for months.

state arms procurement agency which organised the exhibition, said dozens of foreign visitors were attending the show, including delegations from China and Russia.

He said the exhibition and Mr. Mandela's attendance represented a success for the country's defence industry in two ways.

"The first one is an acknowledgement by the country's leaders that the defence industry has an outstanding contribution to make to the development of South Africa."

"Secondly, the international interest demonstrates that we do have something of worth to offer the international market," he told Reuters.

Mandela opens Africa defence show

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's President Nelson Mandela opened Africa's biggest defence exhibition Tuesday with a plea that defence production should be used for peace and security, not death and destruction.

"On display here are products... which can be used to secure peace and security or misused to sow fearful death and destruction," Mr. Mandela said.

"We have a unique opportunity to help ensure that peaceful purpose are served by the defence industry," he added.

South Africa's DEXSA 94 exhibition is the second defence industry fair put on for general viewing following the first such show in 1992.

Only South African pro-

ducts are on show, although foreign defence sources said foreign exhibitors might participate in the future.

Items on display range from 9mm pistols, to the world-class G-6 155mm long-range artillery Howitzer, the Rooivalk attack helicopter South Africa hopes to sell to the British army, air defence and naval gun systems, sophisticated electronic equipment and a full mobile field hospital.

Foreign defence sources said two items on show for the first time were a G-6 gun turret mounted on an old Soviet T-72 tank chassis and Russia's MiG-29 jet engine South Africa may install in its French-built Mirage F-1 fighter aircraft.

Abba Omar, spokesman for South Africa's Armscor

E. Timor students opt for Portugal asylum

JAKARTA (R) — East Timorese students holed up in the U.S. embassy in Jakarta for the past 10 days said Tuesday they would accept asylum in Portugal because they fear for their safety in Indonesia.

The U.S. embassy and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said they were processing the group's travel documents. Jakarta has reiterated a promise not to hinder their departure, the local ICRC representative told Reuters.

Diplomats following the case said they would leave before the end of the week. A spokesman for the 29 youths, Domingos Sarmiento Alves, told reporters through the embassy fence they had

decided to go after alleged harassment from local security officers and contradictory statements about their fate if they stayed.

"It's a hard decision for us because we want to go back to East Timor. But based on our experience here, where Indonesian intelligence officers have continually been threatening us, we feel we should leave (Indonesia)," he said.

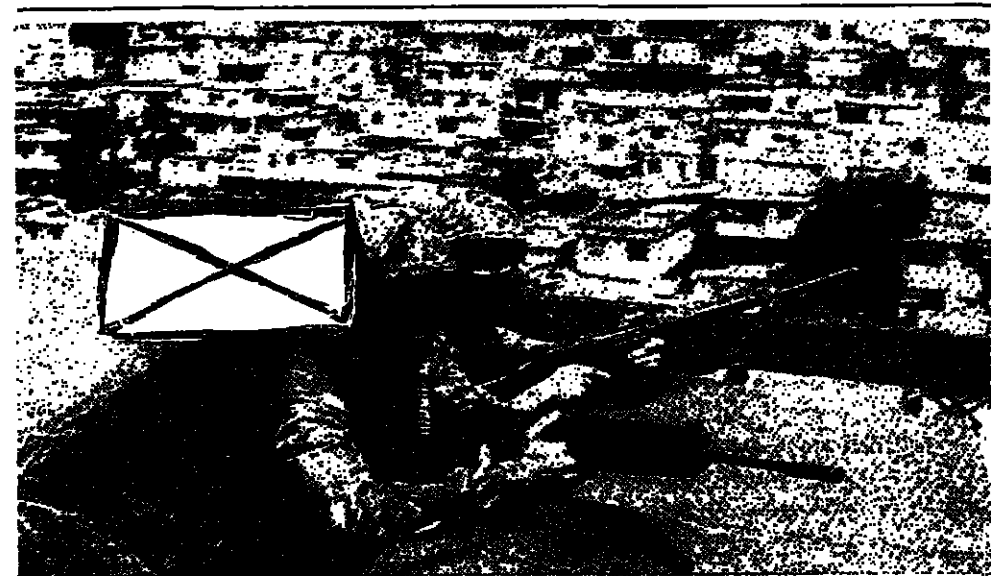
The 29 scaled the embassy fence on Nov. 12 to demand the release of their guerrilla leader Xanana Gusmao, who is serving a 20-year jail sentence for subversion.

They also requested a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton or other senior U.S. officials then in Jakarta.

Neither demand was granted, but their action dominated media coverage of a meeting of regional leaders in Jakarta. The East Timorese capital of Dili was also swept by a week of rioting and pro-independence protests.

ICRC delegate Henri Fournier said by telephone he had been told by the students late Monday that they wanted to leave.

Portugal, which ruled East Timor until a few months before Indonesia's 1975 invasion and is still recognised by the United Nations as the administering authority, has agreed to take the 29 youths. Lisbon regards all East Timorese as its citizens.



Brazilian Marines ride a patrol vehicle through the streets of the shantytown of Dende in Rio de Janeiro. Some 1,500 federal army troops have been deployed in Rio's slums as part of the Operation Rio to crack down on the illegal trade in firearms and drugs. The troops left the shantytowns Monday (AFP photo)

Brazil troops pull out of Rio slums

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Army and navy troops have pulled out of two Rio shantytowns after weekend searches for drug-traffickers in which scores of people were detained, an army spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman, Colonel Ivan Cardoso, said the army had also set up checkpoints at the entrances to six other shantytowns in an attempt to cut off the flow of drugs and weapons to gangs.

Referring to the situation in Mangueira, one of the hillside slums where the raids were conducted, Col. Cardoso said: "The hill is no longer under the control of the drug-traffickers."

Army agents had infil-

trated the area and will identify those selling drugs, he said.

In addition to Mangueira, navy units supported by tanks and helicopters spent nearly 48 hours searching for traffickers, drugs and weapons in Dende, a shantytown overlooking Rio's Guanabara Bay.

Army officials had not disclosed how many troops were involved in the two operations but news reports put the figure at between 1,500 and 2,000.

Globo Television said 128 people were arrested in the two raids including the suspected head of the drug trade in Mangueira. Eight weapons and cocaine and marijuana

were seized. Eighteen people remained in custody Monday, Globo said.

A 37-year-old man was accidentally shot in the arm by a navy Marine Sunday while an army soldier was shot and injured by a suspected drug-trafficker the previous day. Another soldier and a police officer were also wounded by accidental fire.

Brazilian President Itamar Franco ordered the military to head a crackdown on organised crime and corruption in Rio in response to growing concern over the power of drug gangs and their influence over the city's police.

India invited to supermodel contest by Ford

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India has been invited to participate in the Supermodel of the World contest after two local beauties won both the Miss Universe and Miss World titles this year, the Press Trust of India said. India will be among the 36 contesting nations in the pageant next year organised by the U.S.-based Ford Model Inc., which has launched several famous models such as Christine Brinkley, Rachel Hunter and Bridget Hall, PTI said. The invitation came two days after 21-year-old Aishwarya Rai, an architecture student from Bombay, won the Miss World title in South Africa's Sun City, just months after compatriot Sushmita Sen was crowned Miss Universe in Manila. Ms. Sen's victory was a debut for India but Ms. Rai is the second Indian Miss World, following Reita Faria who took the title in 1966.

Moscow hosting first top fashion show

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's first high fashion week opens here Tuesday with a dozen leading French houses showing their autumn collections from Paris modelled by local mannequins. A new market for fashion and luxury goods has become noticeable here in the past two years. Russians crowd around store windows in their spare time to see that Western goods are on offer, and high class clothing, along with strong liquor, has a preponderant place. Lapidus, Paco Rabanne, Louis Feraud, Torrente, Lecoanet Hemant, Jean-Louis Scherrer and Carven are among the big names who have sent their top people. The fashion parades are being staged in the Rossia Hotel, where tickets for places range from \$15 for a seat to \$700 for the whole week. The idea for the show came from young Russian couturier Valentin Yudashkin, whose reputation has spread beyond the confines of Russia in the past few years. He has significant support for Yousif Kobzon, the Soviet era singer who is cultural adviser to Moscow's mayor Yuri Luzhkov, the sponsor of the event. Mr. Yudashkin will be the only Russian dress designer to mount a collection this week.

Poles start sex life survey

WARSAW (AFP) — The percentage of young Poles who have lost their virginity by the age of 15 or 16 has doubled compared with four years ago, according to a survey reported Monday in the daily newspaper Zycie Warszawy. The proportion has increased from five to ten per cent of teenagers of that age as a whole. Among boys, 25 per cent of 15-16 year olds have had their first sexual experience, compared with 17 per cent four years ago, according to the investigation by the Institute for the Mother and Child. At age 17, 29 per cent of girls and 47 per cent of boys say they have had sex. Researchers found that schoolgirls from comfortable families, who smoked, did not believe in God and did badly at school, were those who had sex earliest. According to the survey among the traditionally Catholic population, girls gave being in love or fear of losing their partner as the reason for starting their sex life, whereas boys cited a need to "release tension."

China's censors give green light to 'sacred' nude

BEIJING (AFP) — China's censors have given the go-ahead to a nude scene in a film marking the 60th anniversary of the celebrated 1934-35 Long March by the communist Red Army under Mao Zedong, a report said Monday. The director of the film Golden Sands, Running Waters described the decision as a "breakthrough", and admitted he had been worried the scene — involving the character of Mao's brother-in-law — might not receive official approval. In the end the censor's praised as "serious, solemn and sacred" the scene, in which a naked young girl from the Yi minority confronts the Red Army during the march. Nudity is still a rarity in Chinese cinema and has generally been confined to the works of more independent-minded directors, rather than official propaganda releases.

Office confirms Berlusconi probe

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office Tuesday confirmed that he had been formally warned he faced inquiry in a corruption probe.

A spokeswoman for the prime minister's office confirmed a report by Italian News Agency (ANSA) that Mr. Berlusconi had received a formal warning of investigation from Milan magistrates. Such notices are issued after magistrates acquire evidence to suspect that a crime may have been committed. The warning was issued hours after Mr. Berlusconi said he had not committed any crime and would not resign.

He was responding to a report in a Milan newspaper that magistrates had placed his name on a list of people who could be investigated for corruption.

The warning is believed to refer to bribes allegedly paid to tax inspectors by Mr. Berlusconi's fininvest business empire before he entered politics. Mr. Berlusconi has said the payments were extortion demanded by corrupt officials.

Mr. Berlusconi said Tuesday he had not committed any crime and would not resign.

The embattled prime minister who has had a long-running war with magistrates over their investigative methods, suggested the information was timed to embarrass him while he hosts a big U.N. conference on international crime in Naples.

The report in the authoritative Corriere Della Sera was another hammer blow for Mr. Berlusconi after his party suffered a severe setback in the first round of weekend elections.

His supporters said it was timed to hit him while he was down and influence the second round of the vote next month. Coalition partners said the furor should not affect the government.

"As far as I am concerned I am serene because, as I have said many times in the past, I am absolutely sure I have not committed any offence," he told reporters in Naples.

Mr. Berlusconi said he was fully determined to "continue in the service of the state" and added that he had not been formally notified by the magistrates of their reported move.

The report said magistrates had put Mr. Berlusconi's name on a routine list of people they may formally investigate in the future if there is sufficient evidence.

The procedure in which magistrates put names on a list of possible suspects is automatic in Italy, but does not imply charges or guilt and is not as serious as a judicial warning, which is issued only after magistrates acquire firm evidence.

Mr. Berlusconi has said in the past that he would not resign even if he did eventually receive a judicial warning.

He repeated his contention that executives of his companies, like many others in Italy, had been extorted by corrupt officials and had no choice but to pay up.

He said the elements of the report were old and based on police questioning of his business partners.

"They, like thousands of other managers and entrepreneurs have been passive victims of extortion and not active corruptors," he said.

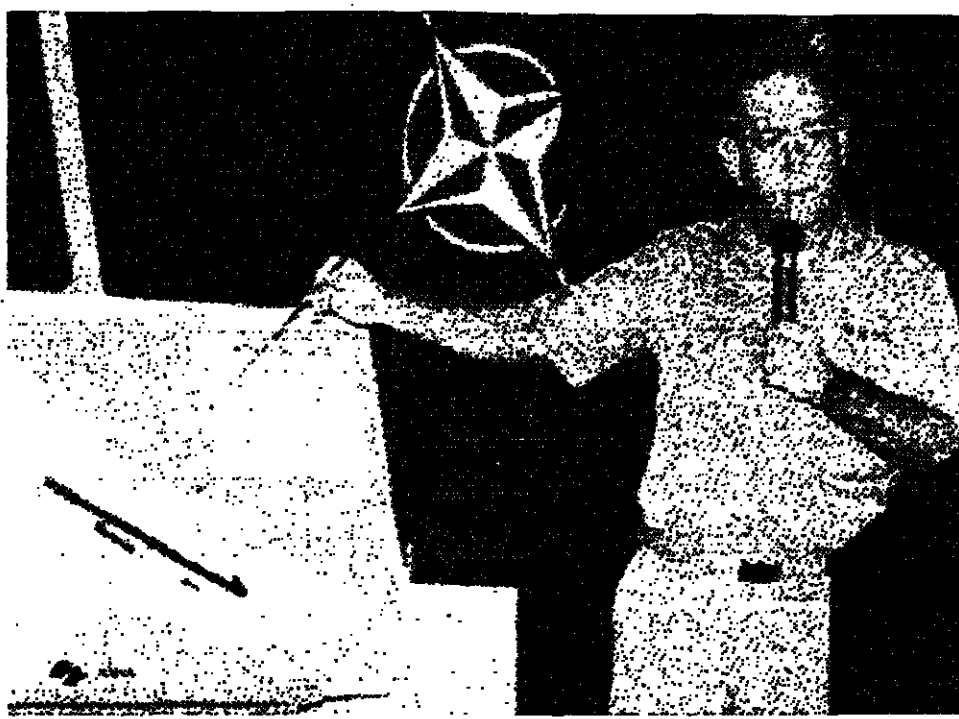
He accused the magistrates, who have not commented on the report, of violating their duty to keep their work secret.

Mr. Berlusconi questioned the "sense of responsibility" of those who had decided to use the information while he is hosting the U.N. crime conference.

Justice Minister Alfredo Biondi said magistrates should open an investigation into the leak. "All I know is that a citizen has discovered from a newspaper that he is being investigated and divulging secret information is a crime," he said.

The episodes involve suspected bribes paid to Italian tax police in 1991 and 1992 by two companies owned by Mr. Berlusconi's Fininvest business empire before he entered politics.

The report in the newspaper rattled markets and initially sent the lira sliding, but the currency later bounced back.



NATO commander for southern Europe Admiral Leighton Smith points to a map of the Udbina Airfield in Croatia, during a press conference (AFP photo)

Rich, poor states split on ways to fight crime

NAPLES, Italy (AFP) — Rich and poor countries split Tuesday over how to fight organised crime on the second day of a groundbreaking U.N. conference on a problem the U.N. chief said was threatening the very foundation of democracy.

Boutros Ghali had urged the 800 delegates — interior and justice ministers and senior police officials — from 140 countries at the conference to boost cooperation and legislation to try to fight spreading transnational crime networks.

But differences emerged quickly Tuesday in a committee presided by Colombian Vice President Humberto de la Calle working on a final document the conference had hoped to adopt at its closing Wednesday.

The divisions focused on what sort of overall plan of action to adopt against criminality across borders.

Developing countries

pushed more for a global U.N. convention against such organised crime — as outlined in an Argentine proposal backed by Latin American and African countries as well as Italy and Dr. Ghali.

But Western industrialised countries, notably the United States and Britain, wanted more specific and more readily enforceable steps.

Britain's Junior Home Office Minister David Maclean urged delegates Tuesday to "focus on what is practical and achievable and organised transnational crime."

His statement echoed comments the night before by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno who suggested strengthening bilateral accords to fight organised crime.

An aide to a Western delegation said Tuesday political and economic reasons were behind the developing countries' preference for the more generalised form of a U.N. convention.

Murayama fights to hold coalition together

TOKYO (R) — Japan headed for a new political crisis Tuesday with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama battling to hold his government together and a top minister warning that political upheaval threatened economic recovery.

Several top business leaders also clamoured for an end to the uncertainty that has been set off by widening rifts in Mr. Murayama's Socialist Party, imminent electoral reform and speculation about a snap election.

On Monday Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the influential business lobby Keidanren started a chorus of calls by industry captains for early elections in the aftermath of parliament's passage of laws to implement sweeping electoral reform.

He was joined by Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, who told a news conference that "under the new electoral system, an election should be held to check what the Japanese people want."

Mr. Murayama is Japan's fourth prime minister since the last parliamentary elections were held in July 1993.

One object of electoral reform is to create a system that gives voters a U.S.-style choice between two major parties that would have the mandate to form a government.

The current ruling coalition of the Socialists, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Sakigake was cobbled together in June through behind-the-scenes negotiations following the collapse of the previous wobbly coalition.

Despite the turmoil, key economy ministers Tuesday warned that dissolving parliament to call elections would cause delays in drafting the fiscal 1995 budget and stifle the country's nascent economic recovery.

Masahiko Komura, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), said drafting the budget on time requires that Mr. Murayama's government "remain stable."

In his quest for stability, Mr. Murayama, the Socialist chairman, on Tuesday pleaded with Wataru Kubo, his second-in-command, to help him curb moves to split the party and weaken his administration.

On Saturday a group of party mavericks will hold a symposium on the creation of the new Democratic League, a grouping of Socialists and other lawmakers who seek a liberal third force to counter the LDP and the conservative opposition bloc.

Mr. Kubo, a key figure in the new liberal party scheme, told reporters he would "support the Murayama administration as long as it exists."

However, he later urged Mr. Murayama to hasten efforts to unite the liberals, arguing "political realignment will not proceed on the Socialists' time schedule."

The opposition camp, made up of reformist parties that controlled the government from August to April, is keenly watching developments among the Socialists. The 10 non-Communist parties, which will merge on Dec. 10, seek defections from the ruling camp and hope the turmoil will force Mr. Murayama to call elections early next year.

British jets targetted as Serbs advance on Bihac

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces pressed home their attack on Bosnia's Bihac enclave and two British jet fighters came under missile fire Tuesday, less than 24 hours after a punitive NATO raid on a Serb air base.

Two British Sea Harrier jets were fired on by missiles over Serb-held territory, a NATO spokesman said.

"It would appear that two Sea Harriers were subject to being fired on by missiles over northern Bosnia in the area near Banja Luka," said a spokesman at NATO Southern Europe Headquarters in Naples. The aircraft were not hit.

The attack came a day after jets from four NATO nations, including Britain, struck at a rebel Serb airbase in Croatia in the alliance's biggest attack in its 45 year history.

Banja Luka, Bosnia's second city, lies at the heart of Serb-held territory in the north of the republic and is the site of a major air base.

The United States issued a warning that NATO would strike again against the Serbs unless they stopped attacking Bihac.

A senior United Nations official said two people had been killed and four wounded in the NATO attack on Udbina Air Base.

U.N. civil affairs deputy chief Colum Murphy dismissed criticism of the limited military effect of the attack, saying it was vital to keep open lines of communication to the Serbs.

"One is constantly trying to tread that thin blue line where you don't damage communication with the warring parties," Mr. Murphy said.

The raid, seen as sending a political message to the Serbs, avoided attacking Serb aircraft on the ground and NATO conceded the air base could be reopened before very long.

A Serbian technical expert estimated the runway at

Udbina could be repaired in less than 24 hours. Serb troops backed by tanks and a helicopter were advancing across the Bihac enclave Tuesday.

"In the area of Gata Ilidza, it is believed the attacking forces were supported by tanks and a helicopter which fired rockets into BIH (Bosnian army) positions," a United Nations source said.

The local U.N. commander said the Serbs were pushing hundreds of Bihac refugees before them and leaving a trail of burning villages in their wake.

"There is fighting in the southwest of the valley, through Croat villages that are now burning," Colonel Jean Charles Lemieux, the U.N. military commander in Bihac, told Reuters by telephone late Monday.

"There are refugees on the road from West to East," he said. "I've seen (artillery) impacts come down in their villages — the valley was full

of smoke." The Canadian colonel said Serb heavy weapons of all sorts including tanks were being used in the attack on Bihac.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said about 2,000 people displaced by the fighting had fled to Bihac town. Red Cross warehouses in the Bihac enclave had run out of food, spokeswoman Lisa Jones said.

Bosnian government forces in the Bihac enclave broke out of the pocket in October, surprising Serbs who had encircled them for more than two years.

The Serbs lost about 250 square kilometres of territory to the Bosnian army's Fifth Corps before counter-attacking in force, recapturing virtually all their lost ground and threatening the U.N.-protected "safe area" of Bihac town.

Attacks by Croatian Serb combat jets against the Bihac safe area prompted Monday's NATO raid on the Udbina

airstrip.

The United Nations said food must urgently be allowed into Bihac enclave to alleviate the suffering of 180,000 people who had received practically no aid since last May.

"It's fine to focus on airfields but there are people on the ground who have a right to food and medical supplies," said Peter Kessler, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), referring to Monday's air strike.

The UNHCR had appealed repeatedly to the Serbs of the so-called republic of Serbian Krajina to permit convoys to move, but there was an "ongoing policy of using humanitarian aid as a weapon," Mr. Kessler told Reuters in Zagreb.

Unless rebel Serbs who control access to the enclave from the West allow U.N. aid convoys to pass, emergency airdrops would be needed to feed the people, he said.



Two Bosnian Croat soldiers examine a makeshift cemetery for Bosnian Serbs in central Muslim-Croat forces (AFP photo). The town, which had been held by Serbs, was recently captured by combined forces.

Angola fears rebel attacks despite ceasefire

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government said Tuesday it expected more attacks by UNITA rebels despite a ceasefire in one of Africa's longest wars due later in the day.

"We can expect other violations will happen," Lopo Ferreira, secretary-general of the ruling MPLA, said on Angolan state radio.

The United Nations said even when the ceasefire came into force it would be unable to monitor it.

"We have five U.N. stations in Angola in non-active zones... but we have no way of verifying if there is a violation," a U.N. official told Reuters.

"We have plans to bring about 600 military observers and police to Angola but this cannot be done overnight... I have no idea when this will happen."

Mr. Ferreira said Angolan government forces would remain vigilant.

"We still hope that the ceasefire can be implemented... hope will grow as the ceasefire is properly implemented. Our hope cannot stop us being vigilant though," he said, adding the international community should put pressure on UNITA.

The government said UNITA rebels attacked the town of Caçolo Sunday and the northern city of Uíge Monday, the night before the ceasefire, which according to agreements signed in the Zambian capital Lusaka Sunday, was to take effect at noon GMT Tuesday.

Government forces captured Uíge from UNITA last week in what the rebels said was a violation of a truce aimed at facilitating Sunday's signing of the peace pact ending the 19-year war.

State-run Angolan newspapers said the ceasefire would only come into force at midnight (2300 GMT). There was no immediate explanation for the differing timings and diplomats in Luanda described the situation as confused.

The United Nations Monday pointedly reminded government and rebels of the need to honour their commitments to peace and respect the ceasefire.

"The Council reminds the parties of the responsibilities they bear to respect fully the ceasefire agreement which is to go into effect on Nov. 22, 1994," said a statement read at a U.N. Security Council meeting in New York.

The peace accord was

signed in Lusaka, but not, as originally planned, by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi, who said government attacks on UNITA made it unsafe for him to travel.

Lower-ranked officials signed on behalf of both parties.

In Lusaka, military delegations from both sides met again Tuesday to hammer out technical details of the ceasefire.

Sources close to the talks said the question of Mr. Savimbi's security, the disarming of rebel forces, the locations of confinement and assembly areas for the rival forces and a proposed ban on the acquisition of new arms were still being discussed.

"We hope the two sides will stop fighting today. The next step will be a meeting between Mr. Savimbi and Mr. Dos Santos, probably within the next 10 days," a well-placed source told Reuters in Lusaka.

He said the Lusaka talks would not affect the timing of the ceasefire and discussions were likely to continue for some time.

The U.N. Security Council said it looked forward to a report from Secretary-General Boutros Ghali that

the ceasefire had become effective, thus allowing the deployment of the additional U.N. military and police observers.

If a ceasefire eventually holds, the United Nations, which has asked Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to commit men to the peace effort, hopes eventually to field about 8,000 troops and support personnel.

UNITA Radio Tuesday quoted a source in the rebel movement's leadership as expressing reservations about the inclusion of South African troops in a peacekeeping force.

"How can South African troops take part in a peacekeeping force after participating in massacres of the Angolan people alongside the MPLA?" it asked, referring to veterans of apartheid-ruled Pretoria's Angolan involvement on the side of UNITA in the 1980s, now acting as advisers to the Luanda government forces.

The radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, broadcast a message of peace and reconciliation.

"The time has come for concord, peace and understanding among Angolans," it said.

IAEA experts arrive in N. Korea on nuclear talks

TOKYO (AFP) — A team of technical experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Pyongyang Tuesday for talks on North Korea's pledge to freeze its nuclear programme.

The North Korean News Agency (KCNA), monitored here, said the team was to discuss "technical matters" to be resolved between North Korea and the IAEA following a landmark Pyongyang-Washington nuclear accord last month.

In the agreement, the United States promised to replace North Korea's graphite-moderated nuclear reactors, which produce weapons-grade plutonium, with light-water reactors financed by an international consortium.

The freezing of the North Korean reactors should follow within a month of the signing of the accord. The reactors will be eventually shut down and dismantled.

The KCNA did not give any details of the visit of the IAEA team. A diplomatic

source in Vienna said earlier the team might be made of four or five people and would join two other IAEA inspectors already stationed in North Korea observing North Korea's nuclear activities.

A team of U.S. experts toured the secretive North Korean nuclear complex of Yongbyon last week and found some 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods had not been tampered with after they were extracted from an experimental reactor earlier this year.

Weapons-grade plutonium, enough to make several nuclear bombs, could be extracted from the rods, U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry has said.

North Korea Tuesday rejected an offer to take part in multilateral talks on a peace treaty aimed at replacing the Korean War armistice.

Instead, North Korea insisted on bilateral contacts between Pyongyang and Washington.

"The South Korean puppets... have no justification

to poke their noses into the conclusion of a peace agreement," Pyongyang's ruling Workers' Party organ, Rodong Shimmun, said in an editorial.

"To establish a new peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula is a matter to be resolved by the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States," the paper was quoted as saying by KCNA.

North Korea called for bilateral talks with the United States to discuss the signing of a peace treaty to replace the current Korean armistice, which ended the Korean War of 1950-53.

But the North says the South should not be included because the Korean armistice was signed only by North Korean and Chinese Armed Forces on one side, and by U.S.-led United Nations troops on the other.

South Korea and the United States dismiss the Pyongyang proposal as unrealistic, arguing that the truce was a military document signed by defence commanders, not an accord among nations.

Washington and Seoul agree the armistice should be replaced, but have suggested four-way talks including the two Koreas, China and the United States.

During a visit by Prime Minister Li Peng in Seoul earlier this month, Chinese officials said for the first time that South Korea also should take part.

China, North Korea's main political ally, recalled its officers from the armistice supervisory commission last month saying a replacement agreement was needed.

Meanwhile the construction of two light-water reactors, which were promised to North Korea in return for freezing its suspect nuclear programme, will start in 1997, a senior South Korean official said Tuesday.

"The construction is expected to take eight years, including two years for designing," Shin Jae-In, director of the state-financed Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute, told leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP).

الأمم المتحدة

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 696183

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Arms can't talk

ALL INDICATORS from the Gaza Strip point to the looming possibility of another violent showdown between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organisations. Unless the temporary truce declared between them is not only signed and sealed but also accompanied by other measures to consolidate the PNA grip on power in the affected areas, the showdown will be inevitable. A Gazan driver's comment in the aftermath of Friday's bloody clash that took the lives of 16 Palestinians may have hit the nail on the head when he said that "what happened on Friday will happen again and again if all these weapons are not collected."

"As the initial agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the armed opposition provides for neither the disarming of Islamist groups nor for an end to anti-Israeli attacks from within the Gaza Strip the chances are that another encounter would take place until Hamas and Islamic Jihad accept that there is but one authority in the Palestinian self-rule areas that cannot be challenged by public display of firepower."

There are negative consequences for the entire region in the breakdown of law and order in the Gaza Strip. As former Palestinian spokeswoman Zanan Ashrawi remarked in the wake of seeing Palestinians shedding the blood of their fellow Palestinians, the collapse of the Palestinian-Israeli peace track stands to undermine the whole peace process in the Middle East and not only on the Palestinian track.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has been sounding the alarm about the deteriorating situation, warning that Gaza and Jericho could become "a fertile land for terrorism," if the promised international aid to the Palestinians is not delivered fast. The urgency of making good on international donor pledges has prompted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to plead for early transfer of necessary funds to the PNA as a token of critical support. The fact that U.S. President Bill Clinton has supported expeditious funding is a good omen for Mr. Arafat, who needs to reassert his authority in the autonomous areas. As there can be no two authorities competing with one another in those areas, or anywhere else for that matter, the Islamist groups must confine their opposition to democratic means or else risk catastrophe for the whole Palestinian people.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday said that partial solutions to the Palestinian problem in general and the tension in Gaza in particular are not sufficient to end the bloodshed and violence in the occupied territories. The Israelis had nothing to say after the Friday events in Gaza except to blame the donor nations for delaying their supply of funds to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) which could end the local issues by launching projects and financing infrastructure schemes, said Mahmoud Rimawi. It should be noted that the accumulating problems in the occupied regions over the past 27 years do not stem from the delay of sending funds but basically due to the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands which must end and the Jewish settlements that should be removed to ensure security and peace, said the writer. He said that the problems facing the Palestinians are not all economic in nature, especially as we remember that the intifada erupted eight years ago when the economic situation in the Palestinian regions was far better than it is now. Temporary solutions like pumping funds to finance projects can have limited effect, but the end of occupation would have a lasting settlement to the violence and tension, added the writer.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour described the successful visit to Qatar by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali as a natural outcome of the endeavours of the two countries' leaders to maintain strong ties between them regardless of the divisions in the Arab World and despite the past events in the Gulf. Taher Al Adwan said that one can say now that relations with Qatar have become stronger than ever before while Jordan continues the drive to end differences with all the Arab states in the Gulf region. Perhaps Oman and Qatar, among the Gulf states, currently maintain the strongest relations with the Kingdom, but the rest are surely mending fences with Jordan now that the tension caused by the Gulf crisis in 1990 is over, said the writer. Jordan has never stopped building bridges of understanding and brotherly relations with all the Arab states and perhaps the Arabs are now more than at any time in the past in need of solidarity to deal with the common challenges of peace with Israel, said the writer. He expressed hope that Arab reconciliation would pave the way for a serious and collective Arab effort to end the embargo on Iraq.

WASHINGTON WATCH

Peace is at risk as long as its fruits are not felt by Palestinians

The peace process, despite the great hopes that it engendered and its much celebrated achievements, is at a tragic impasse. It is an impasse rather than a collapse because some aspects of the process are irreversible. Instead of moving forward, the Israeli-Palestinian relationship has, to all appearances, entered a new stasis — and within that stasis the dynamic is a downward spiral.

And in this situation the Palestinians are the biggest losers, victims once again of the asymmetry of power that has marked their entire political history.

There is a great deal of irony in all this, since it was the Palestinians' signing of a declaration of principles with Israel in 1993 which opened the door and made possible the progress achieved thus far: the Israel-Jordan peace agreement, movement towards ending the Arab boycott of Israel, the expansion of Israel's relations with Muslim nations from two to 14 and the historic Middle East economic summit in Casablanca.

And yet, with world attention focused on those developments, the Israeli-Palestinian relationship itself has deteriorated. It is as if energy has been mobilised towards constructing the 5th and 6th floors of a building whose foundations are unfinished and even crumbling. Or, to return to the original metaphor, Palestinians opened the door to a new Middle East, held it open for others but have not been permitted to enter themselves.

The centrepiece of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles was its "mutual recognition" of two peoples with equal rights. In the preamble to the agreement, Israel and the PLO agreed to: "Recognise their mutual legitimate and political rights, and strive to live in peaceful coexistence and mutual dignity and security and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement and historic reconciliation..."

The implementation of these mutual rights was to be phased, with each phase designed to create the confidence that enables the parties to move forward to the next phase. Israelis expected that the process would create greater security and regional acceptance of their state, while Palestinians expected that the process would yield economic prosperity and implementation of their political rights to an independent state.

But upon entering into negotiations to implement the declaration of principles, the Palestinian discovered that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lacked the political courage to apply "mutuality" as spelled out in the agreement. The optimism of the Palestinian negotiators was crushed as the Israelis continued to squeeze the Palestinians to accept less and less at each stage of talks.

Nabil Shaath, minister of international cooperation in Yasser Arafat's government, for example, projected that the process would work despite the objections of a strong Palestinian opposition. He described how, as peace expanded, Palestinians would receive the expanded benefits of peace. Opposition would dissipate and those who used violence to subvert the peace would be isolated by the larger community that would be invested in the fruits of peace. The strength of the Palestinian authority and the strength of the peace process itself depended upon the ability to change Palestinian daily life and move Palestinians from a state of oppressive occupation to real freedom.

In this view, the Israeli quest for security and recognition is intrinsically linked with the Palestinian quest for prosperity and peace — they are two sides of the same coin — to the extent that Israel continues to control the process, to impose humiliating conditions on the Palestinian authority, and to dominate daily life in the West Bank and Jerusalem; to that same extent will the Palestinian authority and the peace process itself lose legitimacy in the eyes of the Palestinians. And to that same extent, Israelis will not achieve the security they long for, as Palestinian militants will continue to strike out against them and be supported by a frustrated and alienated Palestinian constituency.

It is now fourteen months since the Sept. 13 signing, and the fruits of peace are too few to maintain momentum for the process in a Palestinian population still losing its rights.

Gaza still has 65 per cent unemployment and open sewers. A recent outbreak of cholera threatens to further devastate an already fragile hope for change.

Even the few thousands Palestinians who worked for poverty-level wages as day labourers in Israel have been repeatedly denied access to jobs — jobs made necessary by an Israeli policy of de-development of the West Bank and Gaza economies during its 27 years of occupation.

Israel has failed to offer even a minimum of confidence-building gestures to the Palestinians. The Israelis have refused to surrender even token amounts of confiscated lands or allow the digging of new wells. Palestinian prisoners (most of whom are political prisoners), instead of finding freedom, were either forced to sign humiliating statements or were freed in Jericho where they had neither family nor employment. And the Israelis continue to exercise control over too many areas of activity, which promotes a lack of public belief in the independence of the Palestinian authority.

"Furthermore, Israel should act to stop new settlements and close the more provocative settlements now. For only when Palestinians experience freedom, the benefits of peace and the hope that justice will be done can their support for the peace process and their leadership be restored. Only then can the Palestine National Authority act with legitimacy to establish order, and only then will Israelis achieve the security they hoped peace would bring."

Israeli settlement-building continues unabated, Mr. Rabin's Labour government, while pledging an end to all settlement construction as a condition of receiving U.S. loan guarantees, has, during the past two years, either completed or started construction on roughly 30,000 new housing units in the West Bank and Gaza and in the "annexed" area around East Jerusalem. Another 15,000 housing units are being planned. And with this construction comes new roads, expanded infrastructure and a stronger Israeli military presence — and reinforced Palestinian conviction that Israel has no plans to surrender land and is committed only to a peace it defines and controls.

East Jerusalem, the religious, cultural, economic and welfare centre of Palestinian life has been virtually cut out from the rest of the Palestinian society. In fact, Jerusalem has become a virtual no-man's land. New legislation being pushed through the Israeli Knesset, which would prohibit any political meetings in Jerusalem with the Palestinian leadership, only adds further insult to existing injury.

The process leading to Palestinian elections has been repeatedly delayed by Israel's concern over the declaration of principle's linkage between elections and withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian cities. While elections are necessary for the legitimacy of the process and the Palestinian authority, Israel's concerns have once again worn-out, quite simply because they have the power to set the time and terms of the process.

KOHL IS CHANCELLOR
FOR THE FIFTH TIME...



Green flirtation shows shift in German voting

By Tom Heneghan
Reuters

BONN — An unlikely flirtation between Germany's Christian Democrats (CDU) and the once-radical Greens reflects a shift in voting patterns that could have far-reaching effects as veteran Chancellor Helmut Kohl's era wanes.

Mr. Kohl's cliffhanger reelection on Oct. 16 left the CDU and its badly weakened Free Democrat (FDP) coalition partners only 10 seats ahead of a resurgent three-party opposition.

With the small liberal FDP still reeling from crippling losses in state elections this year, the CDU has suddenly discovered the Greens as potential partners for the future.

Two weeks ago, the CDU helped elect a Green as deputy speaker of parliament. Now it plans to help the party get a seat on Bonn's top secret intelligence watchdog committees.

Even Mr. Kohl has begun making positive noises about the Greens, whom he denounced in his campaign speeches as reckless radicals

who would take Germany out of NATO.

"There have been developments here and there that would have been unthinkable 10 years ago," he told ZDF television on Sunday. "How can I know what will happen in 10 more years?"

Wolfgang Schauble, the wily CDU parliamentary leader wooing the Greens, was just as coy. "The CDU is developing, too, and always in new ways," he told Der Spiegel magazine.

Both sides emphatically rule out a political marriage in the foreseeable future, which roughly means between now and Mr. Kohl's announced retirement in 1998.

The Greens, who entered parliament in 1983 wearing jeans and handing out flowers but have matured into pragmatic reformers, argue they still have much more in common with the left-leaning Social Democrats (SPD) than the CDU.

But, as the Greens' new deputy speaker of parliament Antje Vollmer said on Monday: "Lots of people are thinking now about the future, asking where the majorities will come from and

what will happen when the FDP finally crashes."

CDU officials admit wide differences with the Greens but point to about two dozen towns in north Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's largest state, that toppled SPD administrations with CDU-Green coalitions in local polls there on Oct. 16.

"If we want to avoid going into a grand coalition with the SPD, we have to see where we can get a majority," one said.

In the October election, the Greens passed the FDP for the first time to become Bonn's third-largest party, advancing to 7.3 per cent to win 49 seats compared to the liberals' 47 seats in the 672-member parliament.

The liberals fell to 6.9 per cent from their 1990 high of 11 per cent. CDU strategists estimate almost half of the FDP's score came from CDU supporters who voted FDP with the second of their two ballots to ensure the party returned to parliament.

The CDU won 41.5 per cent and the SPD 36.4 per cent.

Analysis of the results showed the Greens have successfully poached many of

the moderate academics, white collar workers and women who used to vote for the FDP.

The liberals, who failed to reach the five per cent minimum needed to win seats in the past nine state elections and face two more threatening state polls next year, are now more centrist and business-oriented than ever before.

"The sociological structure (of the FDP) has clearly moved closer to that of the CDU," the Freiburg elections working group, a team of political scientists from the city's university, said in an extensive study of the poll results.

"In contrast to other parties, the Greens had strong growth in their strongholds and in those of the FDP."

The CDU-Green flirtation has naturally angered the SPD, which feels outmanoeuvred by Mr. Schauble and jilted by the Greens, whom many Social Democrats had only themselves to blame because, in this campaign as in earlier ones, they have always shied away from supporting a "red-Green" alliance at the national level.

By Dr. James Zogby

LETTERS

Peace and a brighter future

To the Editor:

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt emotions stirred by the dramatic turning point in our lives, as Jordanians.

Oct. 26, 1994 is a very important day in the lives of every person in this region (including those who probably cannot accept the realities now). It has brought a new chapter in our lives, with no turning back. We should walk ahead into the future built strongly for all by His Majesty King Hussein.

It is well known that life can never be a smooth run, especially after four decades of animosity and insecurity on both sides. We, as mature adults, need to start on a solid ground because if we don't, our children do not have a chance to do so alone. I, as a mother (who being a foreigner, has probably only seen and felt the instabilities of the region for a shorter span), rejoice in the Kingdom's wise decision.

I was surprised to learn that my own children had total confusion in their minds regarding issues like "state of Israel and other issues. I feel strongly that we, parents and serious, unfortunate misconceptions. It is high time, we flexible. It is high time we opened our hearts and arms to our neighbours. Let us give stability and peace as a gift to our future generations. Let us not forget, it is going to be a long, slow process, but with the courage and faith of our see why, this beautiful opportunity should be missed by all of us (the extended Jordanian family).

We all carry an individual responsibility and duty to our country and our kids. This love and caring we share, can be spread to our neighbours, with dignity and trust... By this we all gain, rather than lose, the basic individual right of loving and being loved.

Let us stand behind our leader and build our children's future on a strong foundation, by beginning a new era of peace and stability in all our lives.

Let us look at the positive aspects of the peace treaty. Our borders are defined and a lot of constructive strategy put up for, our betterment. These positive merits should outweigh our negative criticism.

Dr. Barbara Borgan,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

West's 'intellectual terrorism' targets Arabs, Muslims

By Sa'eda Kilani

A time when American filmmakers are bringing the image of terrorism to the screen, the peace process is being portrayed as a series of setbacks and failures. The image of terrorism is being portrayed as a series of setbacks and failures. The image of terrorism is being portrayed as a series of setbacks and failures.

The image of terrorism is being portrayed as a series of setbacks and failures. The image of terrorism is being portrayed as a series of setbacks and failures. The image of terrorism is being portrayed as a series of setbacks and failures.

Who is this group? Where did they come from? What is their motive? When did they arrive? And why are they planting nuclear weapons in the United States?

Instead, there are some brown-coloured frightening people. They utter some words in Arabic words in a very vulgar and violent way.

What language is this? As a Jordanian, I did not quite understand some of the words. The accent was a mixture of Lebanese, Jordanian, Egyptian, Saudi, North African and American with some bedouin flavour.

The release of "True Lies" comes as Arabs and Israelis are stretching their hands for peace. The United States is the main broker of that peace.

It is through the relentless efforts of successive U.S. officials that Arab and Israeli leaders shook hands here in the United States last month. American policymakers succeeded in bringing all con-

flicting parties to the table to work out border, water, refugee and security issues, to sign peace treaties and to solve intricate problems face to face.

Israelis and Arabs are opening borders between them. They are forgetting past hostilities and are working for a peaceful future. They are exploring all possible means to bring an end to the terrorism, wars and instability that have wrecked the Middle East for more than 40 years.

If Arabs are terrorists, then why would the Americans support their cause, help them improve their economies, smooth over their differences and give them financial aid?

Why do the American media—movies in particular—choose to permanently stereotype Arabs as terrorists when terrorism occurs in nearly all countries of the world?

Misguided concepts

Many Americans are familiar with the differing traditions, thinking and way of living of the Arab peoples. They also know that Arabs can be Muslims, Christians or Jews. They can be white or brown; they can be moderate and they can be liberal.

But filmmakers have apparently found that misguided concepts sell better. It is difficult to ignore the fact that the film is funny and amusing in all its other aspects. But it is also difficult to believe, understand, enjoy and even sympathise with the characters when the film is filled with true lies.

Sa'eda Kilani is a freelance journalist currently on an Alfred Friendly scholarship with the Charlotte Observer of North Carolina, where this article originally appeared. The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) is screening the film this afternoon at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel to allow meat imports

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel will start importing meat, even non-kosher products, as part of a privatisation of the meat industry, the ministry of trade announced Monday. The decision came in wake of a supreme court ruling that rejected a ban on such imports and was expected to anger Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's potential coalition partners, the ultra-religious Shas party. In the past, the government has used its monopoly to prevent import of non-kosher meat, that which fails to meet Jewish ritual standards. When Mr. Rabin began privatising the meat industry, Shas demanded tradition be written into law. Shas legislator Shlomo Ben-Ezri said he thought the party had been tricked and urged the government to take action. Mr. Rabin would like Shas to join his minority government to assure wide backing for peace moves. The new law, that goes into effect Jan. 1, was the first to lift regulations protecting the local market. Butchers have said the meat prices would drop dramatically, some estimate by up to 30 per cent, once imported non-kosher meat was allowed into the country.

Disc on Dead Sea scrolls released

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's antiquities authority has released an animated computer disc on the Dead Sea scrolls, a spokeswoman said Monday. Access to the scrolls, that many scholars believe could shed light on ancient Jewish sects and groups that may have influenced early Christian thought, was initially controlled by a small group of researchers. Repeated complaints and the publication of a deciphered version of one of the works led to an expansion of the research group that plans to publish its last findings around the year 2000. And with the disc's distribution, information on the ancient scrolls that were found in caves near the Dead Sea starting in 1947, is available to everyone who owns a computer. The English-language disc includes animation, tours of sites the scrolls were found and are presently housed, interviews with researchers and three-dimensional graphics. It costs \$49 and went on world markets this week, said antiquities authority spokeswoman Efrat Orbach. Target audiences include libraries, researchers and just interested parties of all ages, she added.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

IT MUST have been a pleasure to look the original 18 Corinthian columns, floridly decorated, before a five-metre-high wall covered with 15 different types of spalling white marble. The wall is divided into three parts with eight niches, each of them holding beautiful statues representing water goddesses and animals.

That, says Mohammad Wahib, an archaeologist from the Department of Antiquities, was the centre of Amman 1,700 years ago.

In the second century A.D., under Roman rule, the nymphaeum, as the monument was called, was most probably a luxurious public gathering place for the citizens of Philadelphia, as the city used to be called by the Romans. And if archaeologist Mohammad Wahib's hypothesis is true, the monument of water adoration was decorating an impressive 600-square-metre pool, three metres deep, which was continuously refilled with fresh water.

"We still do not know whether this is truly a nymphaeum or another kind of monument dedicated to water," says Jacques Seigne, director of the French Middle East Archaeology Institute in Amman (IFAPO) which provides technical assistance to the ongoing excavations downtown at the nymphaeum. "But we know for sure that this is a very interesting site which should be given high priority by Amman municipality."

Rather than a voluptuous recreation place, the contemporary nymphaeum resembles an untidy construction site, with heaps of bricks, sand and stones, finding their way between the relentless traffic of Saqi Al Sail and the booming business of Al Qoreish Street, downtown Amman. A tourist hotel was erected, right next to the fountain, actually violating the Jordanian law of antiquities which prescribes that buildings must be erected at a distance of not less than 25 metres away from important archaeological sites. Only the blue sign of the Jordanian Department of Architecture indicates that here lies a site of archaeological interest.

Ghazi Saudi, a tour operator and member of the Cultural Heritage Committee with the Royal Scientific Society, insists that the nymphaeum is unique. "There are maybe 20 places like this in the world, not

Downtown find — 'key to Amman history'

more," he says, adding that the area should be given high priority by urban planners. "Once this fabulous place is restored, the whole area should be converted into a pedestrian zone. This is an area of high urban interest, not only because of tourism, but also for the sake of Amman's citizens," he says. But he admits that his ideas are unlikely to be realised, not only because of the recent street works, but also because the inhabitants of nearby Qoreish Street and the market place nearby so far do not exactly seem to be prepared to give up their homes and business for the sake of archaeology.

Until recently, there was little concern to even excavate this important part of Amman's heritage. Sketches drawn by Hoab Crosby Butler, an archaeologist from Princeton University during an archaeological expedition to Amman from 1904 to 1909, reveal that only 100 years ago the original structure of the nymphaeum was far better conserved than today. Parts of the antique monument were used by Amman inhabitants for construction.

The building was further damaged during an earthquake in 1927. Some attempts to restore the nymphaeum were undertaken at the beginning of the eighties, but with modest success.

"Look at this arch," says Mr. Wahib, who supervises the ongoing excavations at the nymphaeum. "The ceiling has been repaired without respect for the symmetry of the structure. This is a shame."

The current excavations at the nymphaeum, which started in 1993 and are supposed to be finalised in 1996, were made possible after year-long discussions between the municipality and different interest groups. In 1991, General Mohammad Al Bashir, then mayor of Amman, earmarked JD 600,000 to pay off the Circassian owners of a number of storehouses built on the site. In 1993, with an annual budget of about JD50,000, according to Mr. Wahib, and with the technical assistance of IFAPO, the excavations could finally start. The dig had to follow three stages, the second of which will be completed in February 1995.

"This place is a key to the history of Amman because it reveals not only Roman history. This place is also a key of Islamic Amman, of which we still know very little," says Mr. Wahib. He climbs down a fosse and points at a recently exca-

vated piece of wall, which had been partly built of floridly decorated stone — bases of the Corinthian columns. "This wall here was built by the Ummayyads, who probably installed a police station here and erected a defence wall," he explains. "The Abbasides, to our knowledge, used the

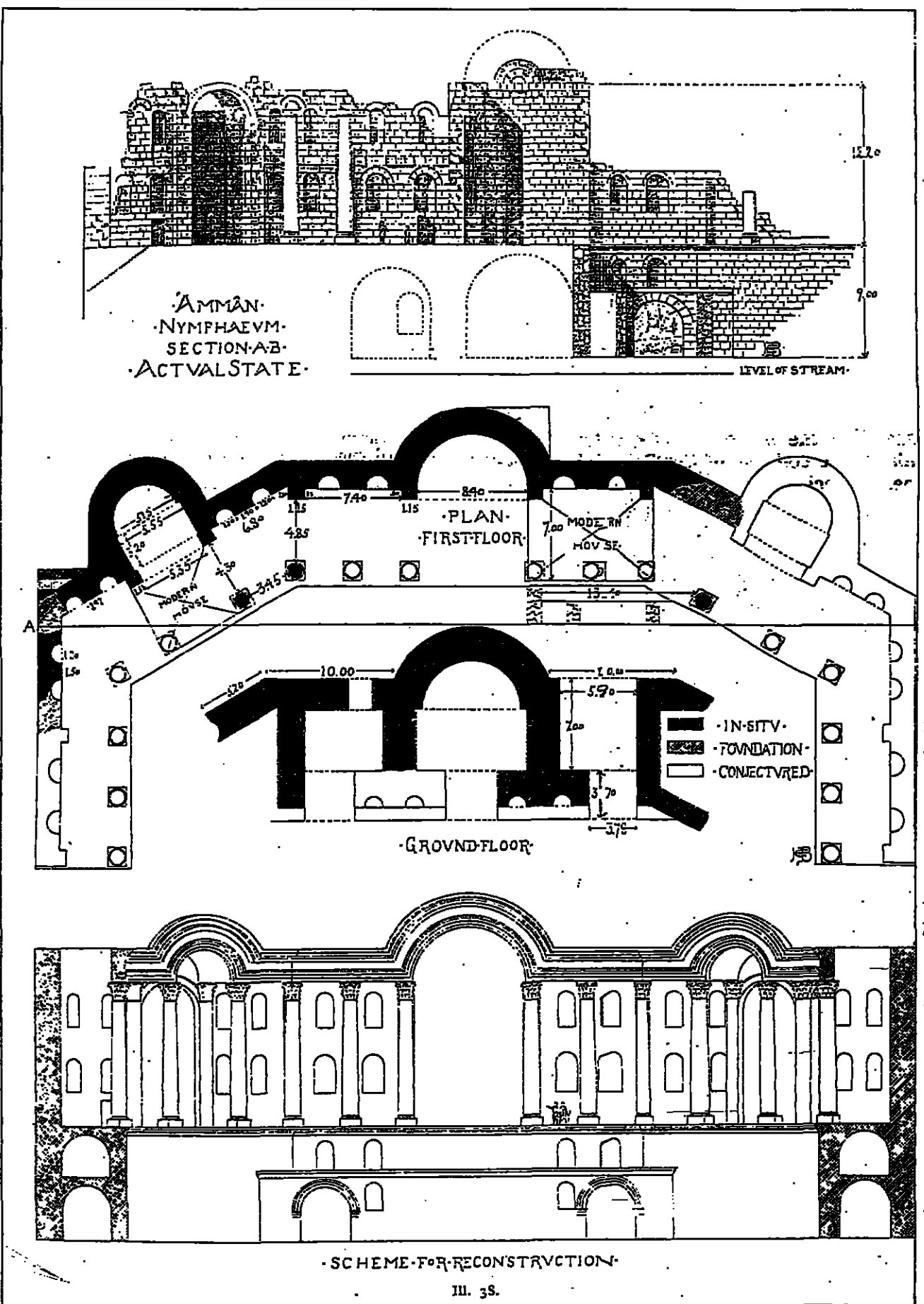
place as a storage space and the Ottomans built a garrison here which was later converted into a prison." Since the beginning of the excavations, in September 1993, findings have shed light on the history of Amman: Byzantine pottery, coins, pieces of glass and mosaics were found, as

well as Ummayyad lamps. The most spectacular findings, earlier this year, were two heads of Roman statues, probably nymphs (Roman water goddesses). "This has been the first time we found decorative elements at the site, which was very exciting," Mr. Wahib says.

During the excavations, the different layers found on the site are carefully studied and documented before being removed. After removing the Ottoman, Abbasid and Ummayyad layers, the ultimate goal is to restore the site to its original structure, as a nymphaeum, by 2010.



Probable frontispice of the nymphaeum at the beginning of the 20th century



Reconstruction scheme of the nymphaeum sketched by Hoab Butler at the turn of the century



Two Roman statue heads, probably nymphs, the first decorative elements at the site

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Saudi wheat exports to stop, minister says

8 Set up 53 Poe's bird 59 Body of an organism 63 Troubles
9 Pre ____ mode 54 Type size 60 Low card 65 Durocher or Gann

Diego Maradona, who says he wants to play professional football again, has been told by FIFA that he must wait 18 months before he can return to the game. The Argentine, who was banned for two years after a 1993 doping scandal, was told by FIFA's medical committee that he must wait 18 months before he can return to the game. The Argentine, who was banned for two years after a 1993 doping scandal, was told by FIFA's medical committee that he must wait 18 months before he can return to the game.

The world's most famous athlete, a record profit of 28 million dollars was made on the sale of his image. The athlete, who is a record profit of 28 million dollars was made on the sale of his image. The athlete, who is a record profit of 28 million dollars was made on the sale of his image.

Peter Schuster, who has lost his job as head coach of the United States national team, is expected to return to the United States. Peter Schuster, who has lost his job as head coach of the United States national team, is expected to return to the United States.

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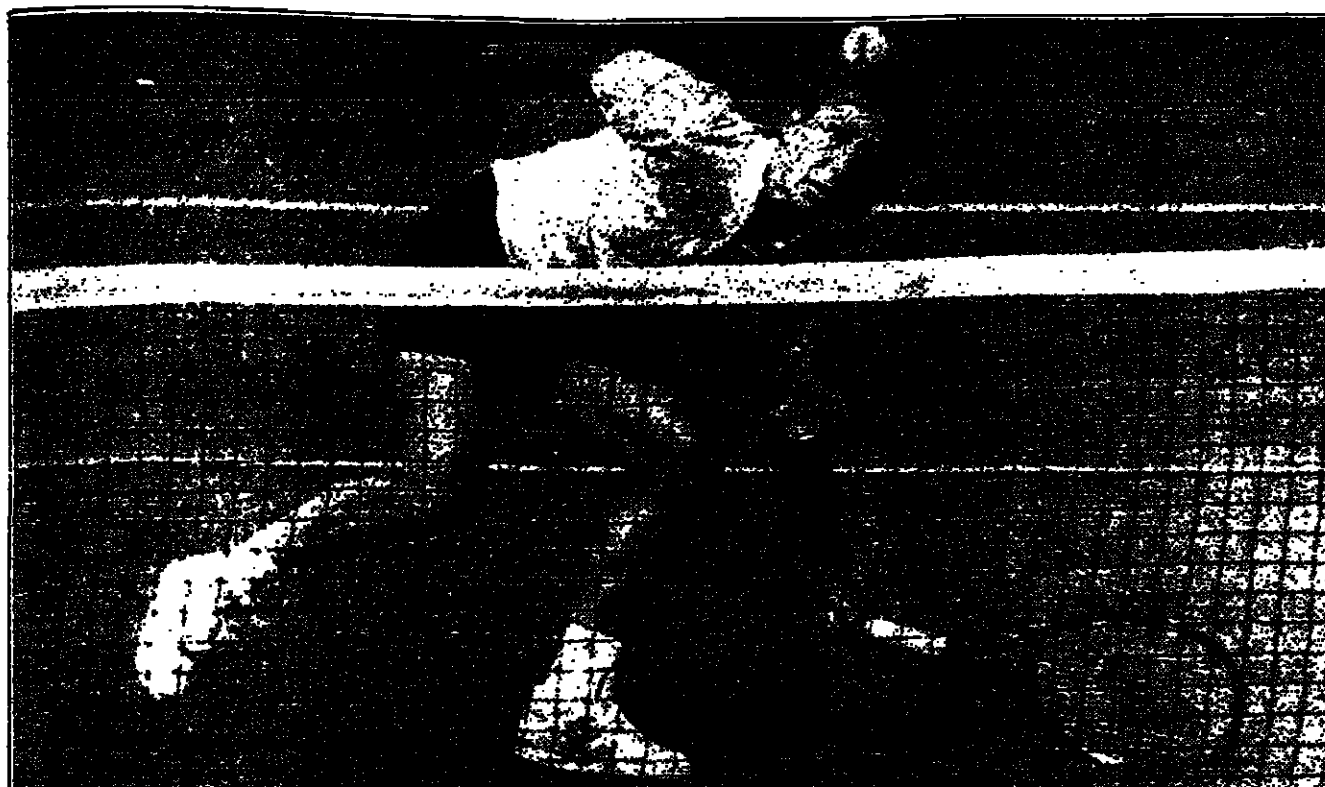
The World Cup exhibition match between the United States and the Netherlands is expected to be a close contest. The World Cup exhibition match between the United States and the Netherlands is expected to be a close contest.

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Sports



Martina Navratilova

Navratilova, Evert to reunite in Legends Tour

NEW YORK (R) — Retired tennis greats Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova will resume their legendary rivalry as part of a women's Legends Tour in 1995, tour sponsors Virginia Slims announced Monday.

In addition to Evert, who retired in 1989, and Navratilova, who played her last tournament at the Virginia Slims Championships last week, 10 other former champions will take part in each stop on the senior circuit.

Women's professional tennis pioneers Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals, Virginia Wade, Evonne Coolidge, Bette Stove and Frankie Furr have already

signed up as have Hana Mandlikova, Wendy Turnbull and former number one Tracy Austin, who at 31 is the baby of the group.

Evert, who turns 40 next month, will play the 38-year-old Navratilova in a singles shoot-out competition each of the six weekends of the tour.

Evert said the players taking part are "all the players that gave me fits on the tour."

Said the 51-year-old King: "Even though we're going to have a ton of fun, we're still going to be competitive."

"In fact, Rosie (Casals) and I have been practicing all week we're so nervous."

Virginia Slims announced the Legends Tour one day after its 25-years of sponsorship of the regular women's tennis tour came to an end. A spokeswoman for Virginia Slims said they had decided to go in a different direction, taking advantage of the nostalgia craze by reuniting the early stars of the professional circuit.

Each weekend will kick off with a concert on the Friday headlined by legendary rhythm and blues star Gladys Knight and country music star Barbara Mandrell.

Dates have not been finalized but the tour will hit Tampa, Florida, Charlotte, North Carolina,

Richmond, Virginia, Oklahoma City, Houston and Delray Beach, Florida.

Some of the proceeds will go to benefit the National AIDS Fund in each community where the tour stops.

"I always thought there would be an opportunity to do this," Casals said. "I think it will grow from six markets to a lot bigger and could become like the PGA Senior Tour some day."

Navratilova was asked why she had decided to sign up for more tennis so soon after retiring.

"The regular tour is pretty businesslike," she said. "But we're going to have a blast."

Aamodt, Tomba, Girardelli battle as Alpine skiing season begins

PARIS (AFP) — The new Alpine skiing World Cup season gets underway this weekend, with the talents of Alberto Tomba and Kjetil Andre Aamodt overshadowed by a row with the sport's ruling body.

The row stems from the high-speed crash which killed Ulrike Maier during a downhill race at Garmisch-Partenkirchen last January.

The Australian's death sent shockwaves through the sport and led to legal action by her partner, who claimed that organisers had failed to ensure proper levels of safety.

Now the ruling International Ski Federation is insisting that skiers sign a document absolving the FIS of responsibility for injury or death, before they are given an international ski licence.

But the move has drawn a mixed response from national federations — with the French accepting, the Italians refusing and the others demanding more time.

FIS president Marc Hodler said: "The text has been approved by the (FIS) council and there is no question of us going back on it. If the skiers refuse to sign, they will not be allowed to compete in FIS events."

"But at the same time, they must understand that it's a dangerous sport and that the organisers cannot be held responsible for an accident if they themselves have done nothing wrong."

However, the Italian federation which is hosting the opening men's events at Sestriere this weekend, said last week it had not asked its athletes to sign such a disclaimer.

It also called on the FIS to take a fresh look at the issue.

Assuming that the differences are settled, and that the World Cup is not suddenly placed in jeopardy, the battle between Aamodt, Tomba and Marc Girardelli should take its rightful pride of place.

Aamodt must be favoured to defend his overall World Cup title, his bitter-sweet performance at the Lillehammer Olympics proving that he is clearly the best all-round skier at the moment.

The Norwegian failed to win a gold medal before his home crowd, but silver in the downhill and combined, plus a bronze in the super-giant slalom showed he was undoubtedly the man to beat.

Tomba "La Bomba" who had only a slalom silver to show for his Olympics, remains the most charismatic man on and off the piste. His undeniable ski talents, combined with a playboy image, ensure he remains a crowd favourite.

However, so long as the Italian continues to avoid the

speed events — downhill and Super-G — he represents only a limited threat in the race for the overall title. That he managed to finish third last season is some testament to his domination of the slalom World Cup.

He gets a chance to demonstrate those skills at Sestriere Sunday evening, when the Italian resort hosts a floodlit version of the slalom race which Tomba won last season.

Girardelli, 31, who just edged Aamodt for the 1993 crown, totalling up 1,347, will definitely be back to avenge his defeat earlier this year.

The Austrian-born veteran, who won the World Cup circuit, celebrates his 15th season on the World Cup circuit.

If the sport's leading trio take most of the limelight, the rest could be shared out among another threesome — Slovenian Jure Kosir, American Olympic hero Tommy Moe and Austria's Gunther Mader.

Kosir is fast-emerging as a slalom racer, finishing third at Lillehammer and third in the slalom World Cup last season, while speed-merchant Moe is out to prove that his Olympic downhill title and super-G silver were no fluke.

Both in their early 20s, the pair are part of the new wave in the sport.

Mader, 30, and fourth in overall standings for the past two years, is a proven race winner with no fewer than 10 World Cup titles in the different disciplines. However, he starts the season with Achilles tendon trouble.

The women's World Cup, which opens at Park City, Utah this weekend, looks set to be another duel between Switzerland's Vreni Schneider and Swede Pernilla Wiberg — with German Katja Seizinger in the wings.

Schneider took the slalom events by storm last season, winning eight of the 10 World Cup races and the Olympic title in Lillehammer.

More recently, she has been grounded by a knee operation which prevented her from training for four weeks and which has made its presence felt during giant slalom runs in Keystone, Colorado.

Wiberg is aiming for the overall title among others — and claims she bears no mental scars from a bad fall last season at Vail, Colorado.

"It would be nice to win a World Cup gold medal in slalom," she said.

"I don't have one. And no Swede has won a World Cup medal in the speed events — that's why it would be extra fun with a World Cup medal in the Super-G or downhill," she said.

Sochi hopes to stage 2002 Winter Games

MOSCOW (R) — Residents of Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi have backed plans to stage the 2002 Winter Olympics and local officials said Monday the city's chances were good.

"We have the best snow in the world and beautiful scenery," Sochi information officer Igor Sisov told Reuters by telephone.

"We are sure that we will be on the short-list this January, and if we are not first when the final decision is made in June we will make an immediate bid for the Olympics in 2006."

He said 75 per cent of participants in a weekend referendum on whether Sochi should host the Games had voted "yes." Turnout was 25.68 per cent, just above the 25 per cent threshold needed for the vote to be valid.

Sochi, which straggles for miles along Russia's Black Sea coast, is better known as a summer playground for generations of the Soviet elite than as a winter sports resort.

It is one of nine cities resort to stage the Games, which were last held in the Norwegian resort of Lillehammer earlier this year. The next Games are in Nagano, Japan, in 1998.

Sochi's own mountain resort at Krasnaya Polyana currently boasts one small hotel and a few rope tow ski lifts but Sisov said Russian and foreign firms were lining up to build the facilities needed for the world's biggest winter sports event.

"We needed to build six

big sporting facilities and, if we are given the go-ahead, they will be built well in advance," he said. "We already have a queue of firms waiting to participate."

The city had hotel accommodation for 100,000 visitors, more than enough for the event, he added.

Sochi's hotels include guest houses and sanatoria which were built for groups and individuals in Soviet days.

One western style luxury hotel was opened earlier this year.

"There have been sad experiences for the International Olympic Committee in the past when local residents opposed holding the Games in their cities," Sisov said.

"The referendum shows that this will not be the case here. The Russian Olympic Committee is sending a letter to Lausanne with the results of our referendum."

Tiny Turk looks to Atlanta

ISTANBUL (R) — Records kept crumbling for Turkey's Naim Suleymanoglu, who in his 12th year on the world weightlifting scene.

"I will not quit until the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996," he said after winning his eighth world title before a delirious home crowd in Istanbul Sunday.

"Naim is undisputedly the best," said International Weightlifting Federation president Gottfried Schödl.

"I believe I can do better, but considering my recent (groin) injury I would not have done so well today without the support of the crowd," he said.

Seemingly unbeatable, 64-kg Suleymanoglu's only potential rival could be complicity.

The 1.52-metre muscleman first put his country on the world sporting map in 1988 by lifting three times his bodyweight to win Turkey's first Olympic gold in 20 years.

He won again in 1992 and wants an unprecedented third title in 1996.

He is now accompanied by an army of medal-winning teammates, most notably the even tinier Halil Mutlu, another world record-breaker, who won gold in the 54 kg on Friday.

"People's attitude changed when I came along," he told Reuters. "Turkish sportsmen would go along as tourists to international competitions. Now they go believing that they can win gold. There has been a revolution."

"He is the architect of Turkish weightlifting," said Mutlu, Bulgarian-born like Suleymanoglu, who to Turkey in 1989.

Suleymanoglu says drugs played no part in his stunning rise to stardom in a sport notorious for abuse. "I never needed drugs. I was winning anyway."

"Those who deliberately drug themselves for some extra kilos should be banned for life."

The tiny man who lifts mountains says freak talent cannot guarantee success.

"You have to really believe

and work really hard," he said. "I used to watch lifters on television when I was 10. I always wanted to be like them. Slowly I began to believe I could be. I once said 'I'll be first one day,' everyone laughed."

"I first remember lifting 25 kilos. I was 12. It was just an exhibition event, but I was ecstatic."

Born in 1967 to a poor ethnic Turkish family in former Communist Bulgaria, Suleymanoglu burst onto the world scene at 16 as a featherweight and began destroying records before defecting to Turkey at the 1986 worlds in Melbourne.

Squashing speculation he could not win without Bulgarian training, he claimed gold and set three world records at the 1988 Seoul Olympics to become a hero in his adopted homeland.

"Bulgaria was the best place for weightlifting when I began," he said. "Sport was a Communist showcase. When we took home the golds people began to check their maps to find Bulgaria. But now it is collapsing around their ears. All their current stars are my generation. Then there is no one."

When he arrived, Turks showered Suleymanoglu with flats, cars, money and adulation, but he has not always had it easy.

He campaigned for two years to win permission for his family to leave Bulgaria. He had to learn Turkish properly to continue his education, as well as train in an unfamiliar environment.

"When I first came here I had to take exams for everything," he said. "I got into university in Bulgaria, but here I had to re-take the high school diploma. I had to take an interview I did in a Bulgarian paper that mentioned my university place to avoid more exams here. I re-took my driving test and failed the written part first go as my Turkish was bad."

Suleymanoglu has not been back to Bulgaria for security reasons.

"I have never regretted defecting," he said. "But I would like to go back and see the place where I was born. If you've lived 19 years in one place it is difficult to cut loose."

Li sets world record

ISTANBUL (R) — China's Li Hongyun set a world snatch record in the women's 64 kg category at the World Weightlifting Championships Tuesday, lifting 105.0 kg.

Li broke the record of 103.5 set by Lei Li in the Asian Games in Hiroshima in October this year.

Li went on to lift a world record 125.5 in the jerk and then improved the mark to 130.0 for a world record total 235.0.

The previous jerk record of 125.0 was set by compatriot Lei Li in December 1993 in Shilong. The previous total record, also held by Lei, stood at 227.5.

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The film which won seven Oscars IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45		Ring of Steel Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD "1" Tom Hanks ... in Sleepless in Seattle Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD "2" SPEED Shows: 3:15, 5:00		Presents "Water is a Gift of Life" A family and children play produced and directed by: Akram Abul Ragheb Daily at 10 a.m. The Arabic Movie The Immigrant Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Announces a temporary suspension of the performance Qirbeh Makhzouqa "Punctured Bag" We will announce the resumption of the play in its new form later on.		Presents: The political satire: Al Salam Ya Salam Daily at 8:30 p.m. Saturday & Sunday is theatre's holiday.	

UAE urges dialogue among Gulf states to end disputes

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Abu Dhabi's crown prince, in talks with the Russian prime minister on Tuesday, called for dialogue among Gulf states to guarantee stability in the oil-rich region, the official WAM news agency reported.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin also discussed the UAE's dispute with Iran over three strategic Gulf islands. The crown prince called for "a new formula of coexistence among regional states and establishment of understanding and a dialogue to boost confidence on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation and respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country," WAM said.

He did not refer outright to Iran and Iraq but the UAE has been locked in an island dispute with Tehran for many years. Iraq had also long claimed neighbouring Kuwait until it recognised the emirate two weeks ago.

Russia played a key role in securing that recognition but the United Nations has stressed Iraq's implementation of other Gulf war resolutions as a pre-requisite for lifting its crippling sanctions on Baghdad.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, accompanied by a large delegation, reassured the UAE leaders that Russia's mediation was intended to ensure "Iraq will implement all U.N. resolutions before the U.N. sanctions are removed," according to WAM.

At talks later with UAE Deputy Prime Minister

Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan, the Russian premier was briefed on the dispute with Iran over the tiny islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

WAM said Sheikh Sultan informed the Russians of the UAE's decision to seek international arbitration on the dispute after the collapse of direct negotiations with Iran in Abu Dhabi in 1992.

"The UAE presented its position to go the International Court of Justice to recover its full sovereignty on the islands through peaceful means. The Russian stand was very positive," the agency said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin is the first Russian head of government to visit the Gulf and his trip has already resulted in the signing of economic and investment agreements with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Russia already has an economic pact with the UAE but they are expected to sign an investment accord soon.

The prime minister is also due to visit Oman, another member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), whose trade with Russia stood at around \$350 million in 1993.

During the talks in the UAE, Mr. Chernomyrdin explained economic reforms and new investment opportunities in Russia, officials said.

The Russians have in recent months intensified their efforts to rebuild their influence in the Middle East that had waned with the collapse of communism and Mr. Chernomyrdin's tour was clearly designed to bolster Moscow standing in a region where it

was once shunned by the Gulf monarchies.

Mr. Chernomyrdin flew here from Kuwait, where he signed five agreements in various fields with the emirate which alone among the Gulf monarchies had relations with Moscow during the cold war.

Leading a high-level delegation of economic, energy and military officials, he started his tour in Saudi Arabia, where he also signed cooperation agreements and sought joint investment projects.

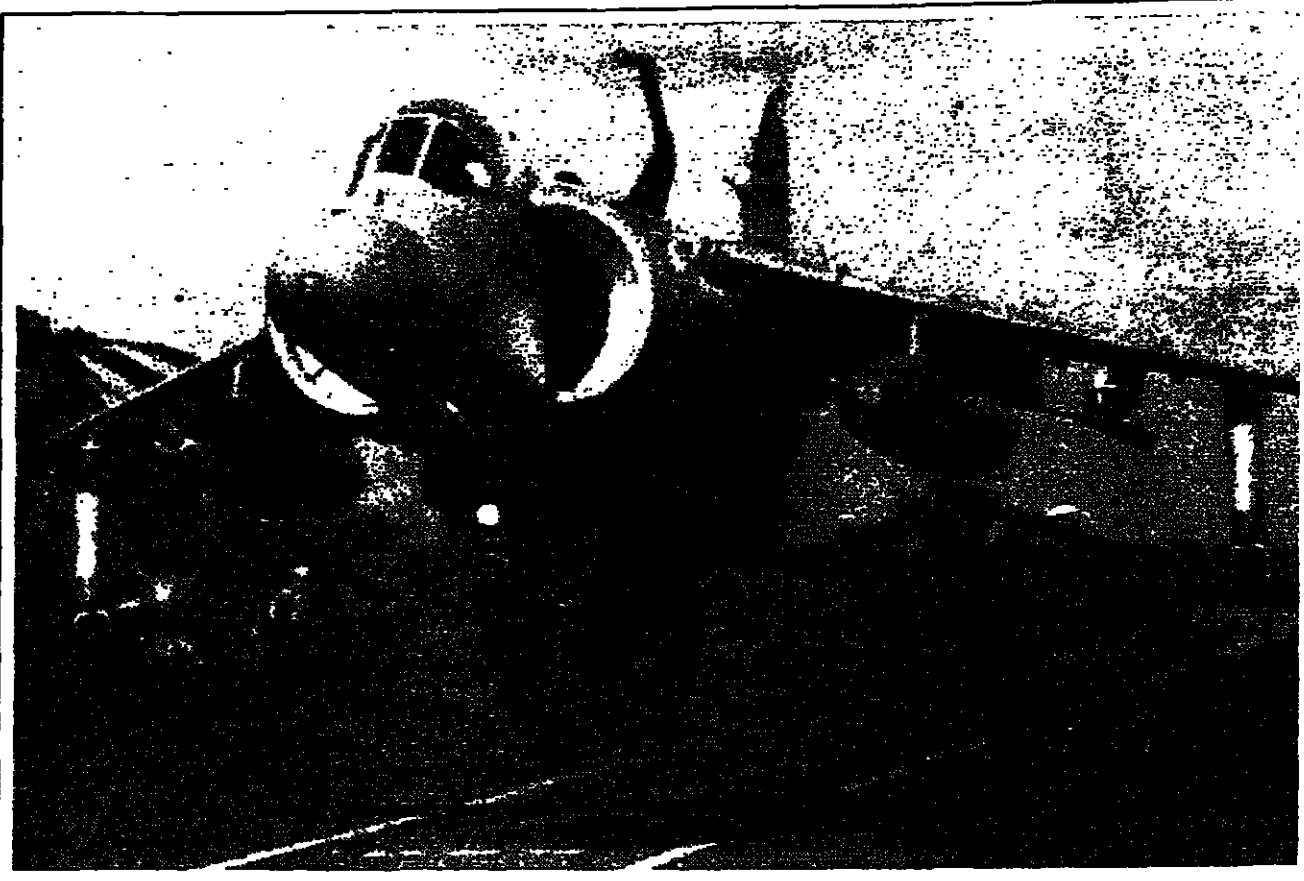
The Gulf market is dominated by Western firms, but Kuwait bought Russian BMP-3 armoured vehicles and multiple rocket launcher systems in August and is considering buying more.

Diplomats listed the Sukhoi-27 and MiG-29 jet warplanes and anti-aircraft missiles as items that Russia might try to sell the UAE and other Gulf states.

The relative cheapness of Russian arms may be an incentive as Gulf states look around for ways to cut government spending.

In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Chernomyrdin discussed investment and Russian debts, although the kingdom's finance minister denied on Monday Russian media reports that Saudi Arabia had agreed to reschedule debts run up by the Soviet Union.

Etisalat, the UAE's telecommunications company, wants to have its own satellite in orbit in the next three to four years, and a feasibility study is due to be finished this year.



SEA HARRIER FA2: A recent file photo showing a British Sea Harrier FA2 fighter plane aboard HMS Invincible, currently operating over Bosnia. The Royal Navy Sea

Harrier jump-jets narrowly escaped unharmed after coming under attack from Serb surface-to-air missiles Tuesday (See story on page 5) (AFP photo)

Menem says Israel must return Golan

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Carlos Menem of Argentina says that Israel must surrender the occupied Golan Heights if there is to be a durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Menem, whose parents were Syrian Muslims, arrived in Damascus Monday on a three-day visit during which he will seek to persuade Syria to resume negotiations with Israel that have been stalled since February.

"The restoration of Israeli-occupied Syrian land is a necessary step for the establishment of peace in the region and for the establishment of coexistence so that the countries of the region might live within internationally-recognized borders," Mr. Menem said Monday night.

Speaking at a banquet held in his honour by President Hafez Al Assad, Mr. Menem said: "The implementation of the relevant U.N. resolutions is indispensable for the establishment of just, comprehensive and durable peace in this part of the world."

Syria insists that the peace

talks with Israel cannot progress until the Jewish state makes a commitment for a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel was offered a phased and partial withdrawal over several years. The Syrians have rejected that.

Mr. Assad, who held talks with Mr. Menem earlier Monday, reiterated that Syria was keen to achieve a peace settlement in the Middle East and blamed Israel for the lack of progress in the negotiations.

"A just and comprehensive peace is our strategic option and if the peace process has not yet led to the hoped-for results, it's because of the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of this process and its running away from a commitment to the rules upon which the peace process is established," Mr. Assad declared at the banquet.

"Our efforts to achieve the optimum level of economic and social development are combined with our struggle for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region," Mr. Assad said.

Kuwait Islamists slam peace process with Israel

KUWAIT (AP) — Islamic fundamentalist members of parliament Tuesday denounced the peace process with Israel as well as the Kuwaiti government for supporting it before consulting with the representatives of the people.

"It is a shameful, disgraceful and submissive crime," said Shiite Deputy Adnan Abdul Samad. "How can we forget the rivers of blood of our martyrs?"

He asserted that all agreements Arab countries have signed with Israel were "agreements with ruling regimes... not with the people," most of whom are oppressed and cannot express their real views.

Khaled Al Adwa, an Islamic lawmaker and a mosque preacher, said the time had come for the government to consult with the legislature before announcing its position on such issues.

Islamic fundamentalists and their supporters hold 19 of the 50 seats in parliament, which was elected in October 1992.

Mr. Adwa criticised In-

formation Minister Sheikh Saud Al Sabah for saying last week that it was only a matter of time before the Arabs ended their boycott of the Jewish state.

Sheikh Saud had said "the existence of Israel is a fact" and that Arab countries should make a decision about lifting the boycott "before one is imposed on them."

Kuwait and its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — have dropped the "secondary" boycott, under which countries blacklisted goods sold by non-Israeli companies if those companies had activities in Israel.

But the six have said they will continue to prohibit direct dealings with Israel until it has resolved its disputes with its immediate Arab neighbours.

Mr. Abdul Samad said Israeli goods "have started to invade markets in Kuwait," and Kuwaiti merchants had workers removing "made in Israel" tags from them in special storage areas.

Clinton ready to seek approval for monitors in Golan

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The American role in concluding an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement "is to do all we can to enhance the prospect" for achieving it and to avoid making statements that "raise questions about whether we're prepared to promote and support such an agreement," a senior Clinton administration official said Monday.

The official confirmed that President Clinton, publicly and privately, assured Israeli Prime Minister Rabin that he is prepared to seek congressional approval to send American troops to the Golan Heights should such a move be necessary to facilitate a peace treaty between Damascus and Tel Aviv, U.S. military and civilian personnel have been playing a similar monitoring role in the Sinai Desert as part of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Mr. Rabin and Mr. Clinton covered a range of bilateral and Middle East peace issues in a Nov. 21 meeting that included 30 minutes of private talk. Among other things, they discussed expediting help to the embattled Palestine Liberation Organisation as it attempts to make a success of its limited self-rule mandate in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, and U.S. efforts to enhance Israeli security, including a continued go-ahead for development of the Arrow anti-ballistic missile and export licenses for two super computers.

Mr. Clinton told questioners on the comments of Sena-

tor Jesse Helms opposing a U.S. presence in the Golan that it is premature to discuss the matter because neither side has made such a formal proposal. But in what many reporters took to be his firmest statement of support for the concept to date, the president said he would be prepared to make the case for a U.S. presence should that be a condition for peace.

He cited approvingly the Sinai commitment, saying no American "begrudges that investment" in the Egyptian-Israeli peace accord flowing from the Camp David accords. When the new Republican majority organizes the Senate in January, Helms is slated to become chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

The official and Mr. Clinton's remarks in a photo opportunity were not directly addressed to Mr. Helms. "I think what he was getting at," the official said, "is that if there's a chance to go ahead and conclude an agreement" between Damascus and Tel Aviv, "the American role is to do all we can to enhance the prospect and the possibility of achieving such an agreement. Those in this country who are interested in seeing peace should be careful not to be making the kinds of statements that might raise questions about whether or not we're prepared to promote and support such an agreement."

The official said the issue of possible use of U.S. troops in the Gaza "was not much of a topic" in the Clinton-Rabin

discussion "because this is an issue that depends on a much broader agreement being reached" between Israel and Syria. But Mr. Rabin told Mr. Clinton he has discussed the possibility, in the context of the Sinai precedent, when addressing U.S. audiences.

Pressed to say if Mr. Clinton assured Mr. Rabin "he would be prepared to make the case" for U.S. troops to Congress "if a peace treaty were to depend on disengagement on the Golan monitored by a force that would include U.S. troops," the official replied, "yes."

The official said there had not been time to gauge the foreign reaction to another Helms statement — that the Middle East peace process is a fraud. He said, as Mr. Clinton had suggested earlier, that the current process which has resulted in agreements with the PLO and with Jordan had begun under a Republican president as part of the Madrid Conference co-chaired by the United States and the then-Soviet Union. He said the response to statements such as Helms' is to stress Mr. Clinton's commitment to the peace process.

"The peace process has always enjoyed strong bipartisan support," the official pointed out, "and we will reemphasize that and the president's commitment to pursue it to the point that finishes the job. There will be no relaxation in terms of his own commitment and, there-

(Continued on page 3)

Lebanon parade marks independence

BEIRUT (AP) — Dozens of tanks and armoured personnel carriers paraded through central Beirut Tuesday in the shadow of civil war devastation to mark Lebanon's 51st anniversary of independence from France.

President Elias Hrawi took the salute from a red-carpeted review stand below shell-pocked high-rise buildings that once served as sniper nests for warring Muslims and Christians during the 1975-90 civil war.

He was flanked by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. Army Commander General Emile Lahoud, wearing a blue naval admiral's uniform, saluted from a podium at the opposite side of the boulevard.

The columns of U.S.-made M-48 tanks and M-113 armoured personnel carriers rumbled across the mid-city museum boulevard, scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war.

The ceremonies began with the release of scores of white

doves to symbolise the peace that has held since October 1990, despite periodic bombings and assassinations.

Most of the doves fluttered over the parade, but six sat in the middle of the parade route throughout the 75-minute event untroubled by the roar of armour.

Tokens units of the army's 12 brigades and six newly formed rapid intervention battalions marched past the review stands behind truck-mounted 40-barrelled rocket launchers and howitzers.

Unlike other independence day parades since the end of the war, the four aging Hawker Hunter jet fighters that make up Lebanon's air force did not stage a flypast Tuesday. There was no explanation for their absence.

On Monday, Mr. Hrawi said Lebanon was committed to peace talks with Israel, but reiterated that he would not sign a separate treaty before Syria does.

"We shall strive shoulder to shoulder with Syria to

achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on land for peace," Mr. Hrawi said in a nationally televised speech.

He stressed that the Beirut government will accept nothing short of a complete Israeli withdrawal from a border enclave it occupies in South Lebanon.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been excluding Lebanon from his numerous Middle East shuttles to push forward the peace negotiations, since a breakthrough in the Syrian-Israeli talks would automatically lead to Lebanon's acquiescence.

Syria has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon as peacekeepers to prevent the civil war reigniting.

Israel occupies 1,100 square kilometres of South Lebanon as a "security zone."

Mr. Hrawi said he was ready to send 30,000 of the army's 50,000 troops to the south to prevent any raids on northern Israel if Israel withdraws.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French TV film sparks protests

PARIS (AFP) — A row erupted Tuesday over a French television programme which retouched pictures of three Muslim youths, adding beards and moustaches in an apparent attempt to make them look like Muslim extremists. The programme's producer admitted the pictures were clearly manipulated and apologised, but the three men involved have made a formal protest and are demanding compensation, saying they do not even practise Islam. The weekly programme "Marche du Sicle" shown on the state-run France-3 TV channel, originally used pictures of the three men last year in a report on inner-city problems. Then last month the programme ran a report on French Muslims — and used the same pictures to illustrate a section on their attitudes to Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The new picture, published by the daily Le Parisien alongside the original Tuesday, was, however, retouched with beards and moustaches added, to make them look like extremists. "We looked just like Islamic militants. I was disgusted," Hamid, one of the three men from the northern city of Lille, told the newspaper. "I have family in Algeria... people there have satellite dishes and a lot of them watched this programme — I don't know what could happen... we don't have any link whatever with the FIS," said another, Rahlem.

Floods leave 30 dead in Djibouti

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — Floods have claimed at least 30 lives over the past 24 hours in floods in Djibouti where a big rescue operation spearheaded by French forces is underway, local officials and French military sources said Tuesday. The toll could go higher as several people are still unaccounted for and more rain was forecast for Tuesday. Twenty people drowned in the worse-affected areas of Ali-Sabieh and Dikhil in the south of the small Horn of Africa country and another 10 people were swept away in the capital by the swollen Ambouli River, the Interior Ministry said. A large number of Somali refugees are housed in camps in southern Djibouti. French military sources said French troops, who are based in this former French colony, had rescued nearly 600 people stranded by the rising waters. About 100 were winched to safety by helicopter while 470 others were picked up either by helicopters which found a dry place to land or by dinghy.

Police guard killed in southern Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — The body of a police guard who had been shot dead was found Tuesday floating in a canal near the southern Egyptian town of Mallawi, the Interior Ministry said. It was not immediately clear if the guard, Mikhail Farag, was killed by Islamic extremists. Farag, a Coptic Christian, was the security man found dead in the area this week. On Sunday, the body of a policeman was found with a fatal gunshot wound. The area is a stronghold for Muslim fundamentalist groups that have been blamed for a 2½ year campaign of violence aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and replacing it with Islamic rule. Tuesday's death raised to 12 the number of people killed in the Mallawi area since the start of this month. Mallawi is 260 kilometres south of Cairo.

Iran repatriates 2,000 Kurdish refugees

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 2,000 Iraqi Kurds have left here for home since September, under a voluntary repatriation program arranged by Iran and the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the agency said here Tuesday. The programme, aimed at returning most of the up to 60,000 Iraqi Kurds currently living in Iran, was due to have been launched last spring, but it was delayed due to the fighting among rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. The repatriation process, however, will come to a halt until next spring as the movement of refugees would be difficult during the winter in mountainous regions of Iraqi Kurdistan, according to UNHCR.

Turkey receives \$120m in U.S. grants

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and the United States signed an agreement on Tuesday for the transfer of a \$120 million grant to ease Ankara's losses incurred by four years of U.N. trade sanctions on Baghdad. "The economic support fund grant is a part of the almost \$3 billion in assistance which the U.S. has provided to Turkey since 1990 when U.N. sanctions on Iraq were put in place," U.S. Ambassador Richard Barkley told the signing ceremony. Mr. Barkley said the grant would help Turkey offset its losses from the sanctions on Iraq. Turkey's second biggest trading partner and top oil supplier before the Gulf crisis broke out in August 1990, Turkey backed the U.S.-led coalition forces against Iraq, shutting a major Iraqi export oil pipeline and allowing Western military forces to use bases on its territory to hit Iraq. Turkey, which supports the easing of sanctions on Iraq, claims its losses through the bans have exceeded \$20 billion.

UAE court confirms jail term for 6 Indians

DUBAI (R) — Six Indian nationals who staged a play in which they were depicted eating the bodies of the prophet Mohammad and Jesus Christ have lost an appeal of their blasphemy conviction in a United Arab Emirates (UAE) court. The English-language Khaleej Times said on Tuesday the appeals court in the emirate of Sharjah confirmed the sentence of the six defendants to six years in jail each and ordered the destruction of a videotape of the controversial play. The UAE laws forbid anyone taking part in or supporting anything derogatory to religion. The six were among 11 Indian men convicted of blasphemy in 1992 by a court in Sharjah where the play was staged. They were later set free on appeal by the Sharjah appeals court in 1993 but have since been re-arrested. The amateur play, called "Corpses Eating Ants" and performed in the southern Indian Malayalam language, also depicted ants eating the body of Karl Marx, the father of communism. None of the six defendants were present "as they had apparently left the country after their passports were returned to them by court authorities," the newspaper added.

Turks charge German, free another over Kurds

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Turkish authorities have charged a German man with abetting Kurdish separatists but have released a German woman arrested with him, Anatolia news agency reported Tuesday. Andreas Landwehr, 32, was charged Monday night by the Istanbul state security court with "collaborating" with the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Karen Braun, 28, was released on bail. The two Germans were detained on Nov. 12 at Kapikule on the Bulgarian border. A PKK activist to whom the two Germans allegedly gave a satellite telephone was also under arrest, officials said. Police said PKK propaganda in the form of video and audio cassettes destined for PKK members in Germany had been found hidden in the Germans' car.

COLUMN

Fleiss attorneys try to prove entrapment

LOS ANGELES (R) — Lawyers for Heidi Fleiss sought Monday to prove that the so-called "Hollywood Madam" was entrapped by a police "sting" operation into providing four alleged prostitutes for officers posing as Japanese businessmen. Ms. Fleiss, who is alleged to have run a high-priced prostitution ring catering to the rich and famous, had pleaded not guilty to four charges of pandering — recruiting women as prostitutes — and one count of possessing cocaine. She faces up to 11 in prison if convicted. Detective Sammy Lee, questioned by Defence Attorney Anthony Brooklier, said he had asked one of the women sent by Ms. Fleiss to a Beverly Hills hotel to provide cocaine and sex. As he started his defence of Ms. Fleiss, 28, the daughter of a wealthy Beverly Hills doctor, Mr. Brooklier played a lengthy videotape showing Mr. Lee with one of the women and then all four women with the undercover officers. Portions had been shown to the jury by the prosecution but Mr. Brooklier said he wanted the panel to watch the whole tape so it could see how his client had been entrapped. The jury earlier in the case heard from 23-year-old Samantha Burdette, who admitted she was a prostitute and said her prices for a "date" varied from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and Kimberly Burch, who said she had never been paid for sex before. Both women, who were granted immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony, said they had been paid \$1,500 by the undercover officers. Other officers burst into the hotel room and arrested them before any sex took place, they said.

Gymnast: I was forced to become pregnant

BONN (AFP) — One-time Russian gymnast Olga Kovalenko accused her former trainers here Monday of forcing her to become pregnant and then have an abortion as an alternative to taking performance-enhancing drugs. Kovalenko, who took part in the 1968 Olympics, said in an interview on German television: "The doctors told us that the body of a pregnant woman produced more male hormones and could therefore become stronger." Kovalenko, 44, broke down as she revealed she became pregnant by her boyfriend and then had an abortion after ten weeks. She added she would not have been allowed to take part in the Games if she had refused.

British teenager in hoax lottery win claim

LONDON (R) — An unemployed teenager who claimed to have won a share of Britain's first National Lottery jackpot has admitted he played a hoax, newspaper reported Tuesday. The Today and Sun tabloids quoted Mark Wright, 18, from Liverpool in northern England, as saying he made the claim to publicise his concerns about the lottery's effect on charities. "I am worried about the effects the lottery will have on donations to charity and also on jobs in the pools industry," said Wright. "I am glad I got my message across." Some of the lottery's proceeds are intended for charities but a number of organisations have expressed concern that some people will buy lottery tickets with money they would otherwise have given to charity.

Judge throws out paternity suit against Jackson

MODESTO, California (R) — A judge Monday threw out a lawsuit alleging pop superstar Michael Jackson was the father of a 10-year-old boy, and ordered the boy's mother to get special permission before filing any more paternity suits. Stanislaus County Superior Court Judge Glenn Ritchey dismissed the suit, which sought \$20 million a year and a house, and issued a finding that Jackson is not the father of James Hall. Blood tests showing that another man is the true father would have made a trial pointless.